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COST OF RAISING KIDS IN TORONTO
DAYCARE FEES COULD JUMP BY $2 A DAY {page 3}

THE KISS
ZAC EFRON SWOONS OVER 53-YEAR-OLD
{page 29}

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UFC joins anti-bullying fight

Physical attacks not the only way to hurt someone, mixed-martial-arts fighters explain to teens ◐ Bullying also takes place over text messaging or Facebook ◐ Powerful video shown of 13-year-old who felt suicidal

"Why have UFC fighters come to talk about bullying?"

Canadian UFC tough-guy Sam Stout posed that question to a group of 1,000 Toronto students yesterday, as part of the Ultimate Fighting Championships' controversial event at Rogers Centre.

Then he answered it. "To me, fighting and bullying are very different things," Stout said, explaining that he trains every day and participates with other willing fighters who are "evenly matched" and there are always referees and doctors nearby.

The messages from Stout, Canadian UFC fighters Sean Pierson and Mark Hominick and American Matt Mitrione, UFC Central host Joe Ferraro, and Toronto Police Service's Sgt. Kevin Hooper stayed close to an anti-bullying and motivational theme and avoided any mention of the controversy connected to the event, which was attended by London and Toronto District School Board students.

Critics have questioned whether UFC fighters — known for participating in brutal, bloody spectacles — are the right messengers for promoting an anti-bullying message. The issue came to the forefront on the weekend when the Toronto Star revealed that Coun. Doug Ford had suggested local schools consider a community-service program backed by the violent UFC league.

Piersen had a personal message for students about how decisions and things they say now can affect their lives later. In particular, he said, negative comments made on Facebook "are around forever."

After the event, some students said the anti-bullying message resonated with them.

Asadullah Ghani, a 16-year-old Toronto high school student, said he's been bullied many times over the years. People make fun of him because he's Afghan and wears braces. "They call me a terrorist, they say Osama bin Laden is my cousin." The bullying has lessened lately because he's made "bigger friends."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ UFC featherweight Mark Hominick, of Thamesford, Ont., signs autographs after delivering an anti-bullying message to young fans at the Rogers Centre in Toronto yesterday.

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Arrests made at Congo protest

Three people were arrested outside the U.S. Consulate in Toronto yesterday after a crowd gathered to protest elections in Congo.

After reports that dirt was thrown at police, more officers were called in to help control the situation.

The protesters — who say the elections are fixed and the world is not acting — later marched from the consulate on University Avenue to Queen's Park.

The protest was largely peaceful but police said they arrested three people after a minor scuffle took place early on.

RCMP in Ottawa said three people were arrested and two taken into custody after protesters gathered outside the Congolese Embassy. Police used pepper spray to disperse those who tried to breach the police line in front of the embassy and RCMP used a conducted energy weapon during one arrest.

The protesters said they would stay at the embassy all night until the election results are known.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Protesters rally outside the U.S. Embassy in Toronto yesterday in protest of the recent election results in Congo.

Parents facing child care fee hike

Proposed cut means parents of kids not receiving subsidies would pay about $2 per day in occupancy costs

Thousands of Toronto parents with children in school-based child care centres will see their annual fees jump by more than $500 under the city's 2012 budget, advocates warn.

The increase comes at a time when daycares are already raising fees to cover the loss of four and five-year-olds to all-day kindergarten, says Jane Mercer of the Ontario Coalition for Better Child Care.

"How much more can cash-strapped daycares and parents endure?" said Mercer, who will address the city's budget committee on the issue today.

High school science teacher Cheryl Woods, who pays about $19,000 in annual daycare fees for her two boys, ages 3 and 6, can't believe her costs might rise by $1,000 next year. She estimates daycare already eats up almost one-third of her take-home pay.

"This is cutting the budget on the backs of young parents and children who can least afford it."
JANE MERCER OF THE ONTARIO COALITION FOR BETTER CHILD CARE

"I'm fortunate that my husband's business is doing very well right now," said Woods, 36, whose children attend Red Apple Daycare at Blessed John XXIII Catholic School in East York.

"But I can't imagine how families who don't have two good incomes will survive," she added.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LUCAS OLENIUK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Cheryl Woods picks up her children Wesley, 3 and Xander, 6, at the Red Apple Daycare in Blessed John XXIII Elementary School yesterday evening after she finished work teaching.

1 news

U.S. presidents always seem to go grey quicker than the rest of us, but a new study shows that they may in fact live longer than the rest of us. Scan the code for the story.

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On the web at metronews.ca

Hundreds gather to mark the anniversary of the École Polytechnique massacre. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Work schedules of firefighters probed

- Do long shifts lead to more firefighter injuries?
- One councillor is worried the answer might be yes

Scheduling Toronto firefighters to work 24-hour shifts may not be a good idea, says Coun. Mike Del Grande, the city's budget chair.

Under questioning by Del Grande yesterday, fire Chief Bill Stewart told city council that firefighters work seven 24-hour shifts per month, a schedule that averages out to a 42-hour week.

However, Del Grande believes compressing the monthly work schedule into seven around-the-clock shifts must affect job performance.

In yesterday's budget meeting, Del Grande said he wonders whether the firefighters can remain alert through a 24-hour period, and whether the long day is linked to an increase in injuries.

RENE JOHNSTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Coun. Mike Del Grande

"You're telling me, in terms of alertness, in terms of what needs to be done, you don't think that has any impact with respect to injury?" Del Grande asked Stewart.

The chief responded that firefighters get six hours of rest time during the shift, while remaining available to respond to calls.

Whether the schedule leads to injury is something that may be answered by an occupational health and safety study that's being undertaken, Stewart told the budget committee.

In a subsequent scrum with reporters, Del Grande suggested the shift schedule deserves a rethink.

"We heard that our firefighters work seven days a month. They do their 24-hour shift, but they're paid for six hours of every shift to sleep. I would challenge any other type of employee where they would get paid to sleep while they're working."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hometown. Boys

▶ Ruben Huizenga, left, Edwin, Jerry Levitan and Terry Tompkins take a break before the premiere of My Hometown at the Tattoo Rock Parlour last night.

COURTESY JUSTIN FERRATO

Yoko Ono film premieres in T.O.

My Hometown is set against a soundtrack backdrop of Remember Love (Yoko Ono's original flipside track to the 45 single Give Peace A Chance). The animated film was written and narrated by Ono, with Levitan and Tompkins also involved.

Pedestrian killed in Brampton

A woman is dead and a man is in stable condition after they were struck by a vehicle that was involved in a collision in Brampton yesterday morning.

Police say the impact of the crash at Queen Street and Torbram Road caused one of the cars to hit the two pedestrians.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prankster sends RobFord.ca visitors to thestar.com

A mystery prankster registered RobFord.ca, which Mayor Rob Ford allowed to expire earlier this year, and set the website to send visitors to the website of the Toronto Star, the publication Ford does not talk to and says he has "no respect for."

Yesterday, visitors to the site were greeted with the insincere words "Rob, we're sorry!!" before they were redirected.

The prank seems to have been prompted by Ford's unwillingness to communicate with Star reporters. The mayor's spokesperson would not comment when contacted by a Star reporter.

"The robford.ca domain name is a site I have not used for some time," Ford wrote on Twitter. "It was not hacked and is no longer being used by me."

RobFord.ca, Ford's website as a councillor, contained content from him until at least February. He let the address lapse in the summer.

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Rob Ford could have kept the address for, at most, $30.

The web shenanigans represented the latest strange twist in the ongoing saga of the mayor and the newspaper.

Torstar Corp. chair John Honderich wrote Thursday that the Star would file a complaint with council's integrity commissioner over Ford's refusal to send its reporters official city communications.

On Friday morning, Ford took to talk radio to lambaste the Star as biased, unethical and unworthy of being read.

His anger originated with an article about a 2001 confrontation between him and a high school football player.

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▶ Dalton McGuinty

Premier disrespectful to AG: Hudak

McGuinty missing Monday when auditor general criticized green energy plan ◗ 'I think basically (the premier) is telling the auditor general to take a leap,' Tory leader says

Premier Dalton McGuinty is "giving the finger" to the auditor general by ignoring his stinging criticism of the Liberals' green-energy policies, Opposition Leader Tim Hudak charged yesterday.

McGuinty was not at question period on Monday when Auditor General Jim McCarter delivered his annual report. Instead, the premier attended the opening of a plant in Windsor that makes wind turbine towers, the Tory leader said.

McCarter found that the government rushed into a $7-billion deal with Korean giant Samsung without consultation or formal economic analysis.

"Isn't Dalton McGuinty, by going to a Samsung-related plant, basically giving the finger to the auditor general, who tore apart that report?" Hudak asked in the legislature.

He withdrew the remark after being called out by Speaker Dave Levac.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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'Radical' sex-ed agenda behind anti-bullying law: Religious groups

FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Charles McVety

The province will forge ahead with the sex-ed component of an anti-bullying law, despite criticism by some religious leaders that it is an affront to family values.

Christian, Jewish and Muslim representatives say they agree school bullies must be stopped, but they won't condone a requirement that schools promote sexual tolerance through gay clubs.

"To force, especially Christian classrooms or schools, to have homosexual clubs would of course be an affront to their family values," Charles McVety, of the Institute for Canadian Values, told a joint news conference. "And what does this have to do with bullying? Nothing."

McVety, who led the fight against the Liberals' last attempt to update the sex-ed curriculum, says Premier Dalton McGuinty is using the problem of bullying to advance "his radical sex-education agenda."

The religious leaders say that agenda is driven by gay activists.

"When you are forcing teachers, Christian teachers, Jewish teachers, Muslim teachers, to teach things that are contrary to the values that they hold, to teach that there are six genders and that you are not attached to the gender of your anatomy, do you not find that that may be an offence to a lot of Ontarians?" McVety said.

Education Minister Laurel Broten rejected the criticisms as "homophobic."

"There's absolutely nothing radical about working hard as a community to make sure that every single student in our schools can be safe and accepted and succeed," she said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

AG delays report on ORNGE

Ontario's auditor general needs more time to probe the province's air ambulance service and hopes to deliver his report by late February.

The audit of ORNGE, which receives $150 million in tax money a year, is now a "priority," Auditor General Jim McCarter said. It was to have been part of Monday's annual report but was held back.

Metro published a Toronto Star story on Monday detailing how the service has shielded at least five executives from the provincial salary disclosure list. ORNGE says it has done nothing wrong and the executives, such as president and CEO Christopher Mazza, in fact work for a consulting company hired by ORNGE.

ORNGE released a statement Monday saying it is in compliance with the public salary disclosure act. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Soviets charted our Arctic seas

Cold War fears confirmed: Subs patrolled the North
Their maps were more detailed than Canadian ones

OTTAWA — Cold-War-era nautical charts appear to support the widely held belief that Soviet nuclear submarines routinely patrolled the Canadian Arctic during the Cold War.

What's more, the charts are still in use by Russian vessels because they are more detailed than Canadian ones.

"I can't help but think back to The Hunt For Red October, where Sean Connery plays the captain of a Soviet nuclear missile submarine and relies on the accuracy of Soviet charts to avoid a torpedo that's been shot at his ship," said Arctic expert Michael Byers. "These charts indicate that the Soviets were in fact that competent."

300

"At the current rate of charting, it will take 300 years for the Canadian Hydrographic Service to bring all our charts for the Canadian archipelago to world standards," said Michael Byers.

Photos of the charts, seen by The Canadian Press, suggest Russian mariners have for decades possessed detailed knowledge of crucial internal waterways such as the Northwest Passage.

The charts, covering strategic Arctic waterways, appear to be clearly marked with Soviet insignia, including the red star and the hammer and sickle.

Byers said: "The Soviet navy was extremely capable and also was willing to take considerable risk.

"Sending submarines into the Canadian archipelago, which was heavily monitored by NATO, thousands of miles away from Soviet assistance, was a perilous thing to do.

"It was a phenomenal accomplishment."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Massacre. Never again

▶ Women pause to remember during the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women in Canada on Parliament Hill yesterday. Their thoughts are on the chilling day in 1989 when 14 lives ended.

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Fourteen lives, 1,000 memories

Hundreds of women gathered on Parliament Hill yesterday to mourn the 14 women who died in the Montreal massacre 22 years ago. The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women is marked each Dec. 6, the day of the 1989 École Polytechnique killings.

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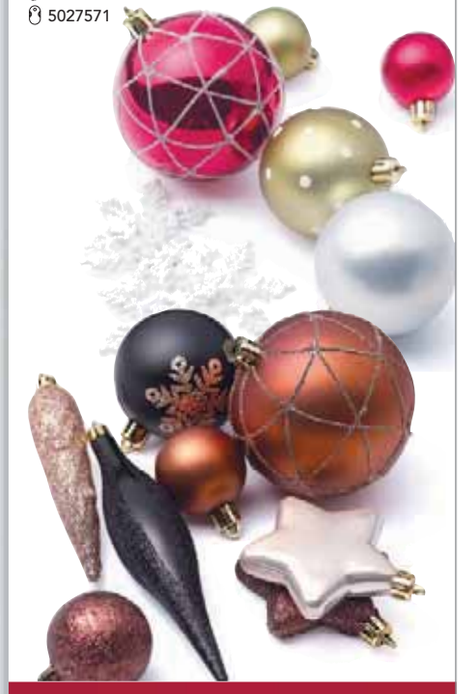

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Explosion wreaks havoc in Kabul

- Shiites had gathered near shrine to mark the Ashoura holy day
- Another blast at Mazar-i-Sharif

In Afghanistan's first major sectarian assault since the fall of the Taliban regime a decade ago, a suicide bomber slaughtered 56 Shiite worshippers and wounded more than 160 others yesterday outside a Shiite shrine in the capital.

The body of a woman, clutching a dead child in each arm, was sprawled along a dirt road littered with shoes, bloodstained clothing, hats and body parts after the blast, which took place as a bombing killed four Shiites in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

A loudspeaker at the shrine blasted a recitation of the Qur'an as ambulances with loud sirens rushed in to carry away the dead and wounded. Outside a hospital in Kabul, a man sobbing with other relatives cried out "Mother! My mother!"

The Taliban condemned the attack. Suspicion centred on militant groups based in neighbouring Pakistan where Sunni attacks on minority Shiites are common. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Responsibility

- A man who claimed to be from Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, a Pakistan-based group that has carried out attacks against Shiite Muslims, called various media outlets in Pakistan to claim responsibility for the bombing in Kabul.

DAUD YARDOST/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Afghan policemen stand guard after an explosion in the centre of Kabul yesterday.

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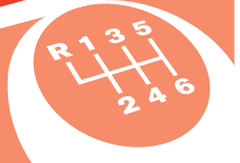

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New planet, 'Earth's twin,' keeps NASA keeping on

Kepler has reported 54 potential Earth-like candidates Observation from Canary Islands will try to determine if it's made of gas, rock, liquid

The first confirmed planet that could be "Earth's twin" seems to have a lot going for it.

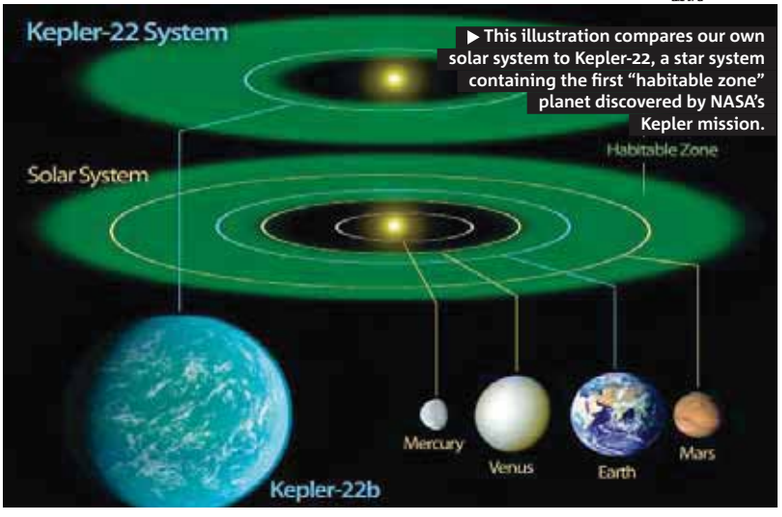
It apparently has a comfy 21 C surface temperature, a rocky surface, an ocean, a sun to orbit, a position smack in the middle of the habitable "Goldilocks" zone in relation to that sun (not too hot nor too cold).

All this is sheer scientific speculation about the planet called Kepler-22b, but it's enough to make NASA celebrate.

GETTY IMAGES

"The tremendous growth in the number of Earth-sized candidates tells us that we're honing in on the planets Kepler was designed to detect: those that are not only Earth-size, but also are potentially habitable."
NATALIE BATALHA, NASA DEPUTY SCIENCE TEAM LEADER

NASA



▶ This illustration compares our own solar system to Kepler-22, a star system containing the first "habitable zone" planet discovered by NASA's Kepler mission.

"This is a major milestone on the road to finding Earth's twin," said Douglas Hudgins, Kepler program scientist at NASA's Washington headquarters.

"I think there are two things that are really exciting about Kepler-22b," said Natalie Batalha, the deputy science team leader at NASA's Ames Research Center. "One is that it's right in the middle of this habitable zone. The second thing ... is it's orbiting a star very, very similar to our own sun."

Why would a planet 600 light years away, about which almost nothing is really known and has only been "discovered" by shadows passing in front of a distant sun generate such excitement? Because it validates the search and gives NASA reason — and funding — to keep going.

"Kepler's results continue to demonstrate the importance of NASA's science missions, which aim to answer some of the biggest questions about our place in the universe," said Hudgins.

The project costs $100,000 US a month.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan finds radiation in baby formula

Traces of radiation spilled from Japan's hobbled nuclear plant were detected in baby formula in the latest in a string of contaminated food turning up in the nation.

The manufacturer Meiji Co. recalled its canned powdered milk with expiration dates of October 2012 yesterday.

But the company said the levels of radioactive cesium found were so low that they would not affect health.

Experts say children are more at risk than adults of getting cancer and other illnesses from radiation exposure.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BP plays cards vs. Halliburton in oil-spill blame game

U.S. COAST GUARD/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Deepwater Horizon blaze on April 21, 2010.

BP in a high-stakes court filing on Monday accused Halliburton of destroying damaging evidence about the quality of its cement slurry that went into drilling the oil well that blew out last year and caused the worst U.S. offshore oil spill.

BP accused Halliburton of having intentionally destroyed evidence about possible problems with its cement slurry poured into the deep-sea Macondo well about 160 kilometres off the Louisiana coast. An oil well must be cemented properly to avoid blowouts.

Also in the documents filed in a U.S. federal court, BP accused Halliburton of failing to produce incriminating computer-modelling evidence. BP accused Halliburton of claiming the modelling is gone.

BP asked U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier to penalize Halliburton and order a court-sponsored computer-forensic team to recover the missing modelling results. Halliburton has said the accusations are untrue.

BP PLC and contractors, Halliburton and Transocean Ltd. have been sparring over blame for the April 2010 Deepwater Horizon blast, which killed 11 workers and led to the release of 780 million litres of crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?

Thai floods to cost up to $11B: Insurer

Swiss Reinsurance Co. estimates the cost of Thailand's floods to the insurance industry will reach $8 billion to $11 billion.

The Swiss insurer puts its own costs from Thailand's worst floods in half a century at $600 million. The company sells backup coverage to other insurers, spreading risk in the event of huge losses.

More than 600 people died, millions of tons of crops were destroyed and industrial production was badly affected by the flooding that began in late July.

Swiss Re's chief underwriter, Brian Gray, said yesterday that the impact on companies operating in the area could be prolonged. Shares in Swiss Re were down 0.8 per cent at 49.29 Swiss francs ($53.13) on the Zurich exchange. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Tough love for novelist

David Guterson's novel Ed King has won the Bad Sex in Fiction Award.

One of 12 authors on a shortlist that also included Stephen King and Haruki Murakami, Guterson was awarded literature's little-coveted award at a ceremony in London yesterday.

The annual prize, founded in 1993 by Literary Review magazine, gently pokes fun at "the crude, tasteless, and often perfunctory use of redundant passages of sexual description in contemporary novels."

Past winners include such literary heavyweights as Norman Mailer and Sebastian Faulks. In 2008, a lifetime achievement award was given to the late novelist John Updike.

METRO/WITH FILES FROM THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Texas mom shoots self, 2 kids after standoff

Police in Laredo, Texas, say a mother who was turned down for welfare benefits killed herself and shot her two children after a seven-hour standoff at a government social services office.

Police were talking with the woman by phone just before midnight on Monday when she hung up and three shots rang out.

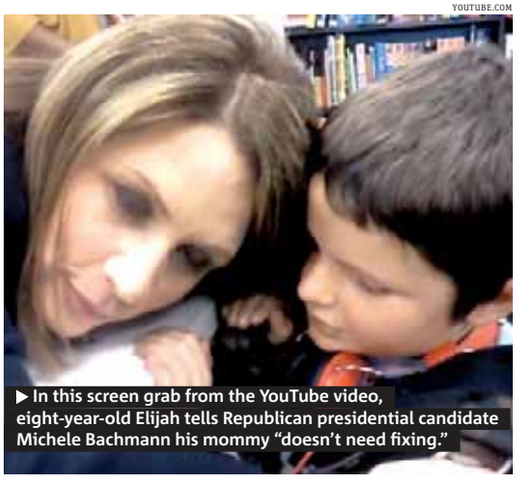
Her 10-year-old son and 12-year-old daughter were hospitalized Tuesday in San Antonio.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'My mommy is gay'

YouTube video draws criticism for allegedly using eight-year-old as mouthpiece for parent's discontent

YOUTUBE.COM



▶ In this screen grab from the YouTube video, eight-year-old Elijah tells Republican presidential candidate Michele Bachmann his mommy "doesn't need fixing."

"My mommy is gay and she doesn't need fixing."

That's what young Elijah whispered to Michele Bachmann at a book signing event in South Carolina recently.

Since a YouTube video of the confrontation was posted Sunday, the clip has generated a discussion online — not for the shocked look on the Minnesota congresswoman's face, but over how the boy is allegedly used as a mouthpiece for his parent's discontent.

Comments under the YouTube video criticize Elijah's mom, who uploaded it, for forcing her son to say something he didn't want to say.

They say Elijah is not a young activist, as his mom portrays him to be, but a puppet forced to speak on behalf of his parent's unhappiness with Bachmann, who has long spoken out against gay marriage.

"She used her kid, plain and simple. That is what I disagree with. I don't care if she is gay. Her being gay does not bother me. She used him as a pawn for her agenda and then brags about it on YouTube," writes a viewer named 2purple79.

"Good cause … but I feel the kid was encouraged to say that, and though I do not support Bachmann and her views, I do appreciate that she didn't take it out on the child and still smiled and waved bye to him. It was obvious she knew the mother had him do it. Bachmann has my respect for that," wrote walmike79.

Elijah's mother insists her son wanted to say what he said, posting on YouTube: "He has watched the video dozens of times and approves of it."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

▶ U.S. President Barack Obama

U.S. foreign aid to promote gay rights

The Obama administration is announcing a wide-ranging effort to use U.S. foreign aid to promote rights for gays and lesbians abroad, including combating attempts by foreign governments to criminalize homosexuality.

In a memorandum issued yesterday, President Barack Obama directed U.S. agencies working abroad, including the State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development, to use foreign aid to help gays and lesbians who face human rights violations. He also ordered U.S. agencies to protect vulnerable gay and lesbian refugees and asylum seekers.

"The struggle to end discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons is a global challenge, and one that is central to the United States' commitment to promoting human rights," Obama said in a statement.

However, Obama has stopped short of openly supporting gay marriage, saying only that his personal views on the matter are evolving.

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SERGEY PONOMAREV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ A member of the pro-Kremlin youth movement Stal (Steel) wearing a Darth Vader mask takes part in a rally yesterday in downtown Moscow.

Votes rigged in Russian election: Poll official

- Workers trained on how to stuff ballots, official says
- At least 250 protesters arrested in Moscow yesterday

The election official had a problem. Workers at his polling station had been stuffing ballot boxes with votes for Vladimir Putin's party all day, he says, but when the votes were counted United Russia still didn't have enough.

So he huddled with the election commission he chaired at the Moscow precinct. The decision: Putin's party would get the desired 65 per cent. One member objected, but relented when the others tossed his Communist Party a few dozen votes.

The commission chairman spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of losing his job.

His account closely matches reports by independent observers of rampant vote-rigging during Sunday's election. Amateur videos posted on the Internet also appeared to show falsified ballots spilling out of boxes at polling stations.

On voting day, the chairman said, election workers quietly slipped ballots into the boxes, as many as 50 at a time, being careful to keep the papers from rustling and attracting the attention of observers.

He said workers were trained on how to stuff ballots, each a thin sheet roughly the size of standard letter paper. He demonstrated how a stack of up to 30 or even 50 ballots could be folded in half, hidden inside a jacket and slipped into the ballot box without making any noise.

Officially, United Russia got roughly 50 per cent of the vote, a significant drop from the 64 per cent the party won in the last election. But the reports of fraud suggest it may have lost even more support.

Anger over the election has sparked the biggest anti-Putin protests in years.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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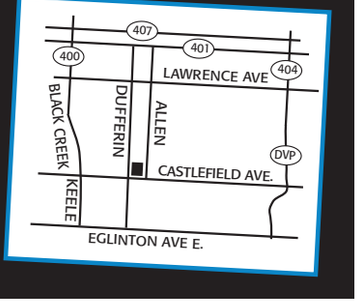

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A chance to study Occupy

IN CALGARY

Occupy Calgary members may be on their way out of their camp, but their efforts will soon be the focus of a local university course.

Starting in January, Mount Royal University assistant professor Roberta Lexier will begin teaching the Occupy Wall Street course offered through the general education faculty.

It will focus on the movement's early stages in New York as well as its evolution to numerous sister camps, including the Occupiers dwelling in Calgary.

▶ Lisa Frye, a civilian member of the Canadian Forces who worked at the Tim Hortons in Kandahar, Afghanistan holds one of two boxes of the last Timbits to be made there after arriving in Edmonton yesterday.

The last Timbits

Final box baked in Kandahar brought back to Canada

HEATHER MCINTYRE
@METRONEWS.CA
METRO CANADA IN EDMONTON

After the Tim Hortons in Kandahar, Afghanistan shut down on Nov. 29 at 9 p.m., those who had been working there decided to bake up a souvenir.

The last batch of Timbits ever made there landed at the Edmonton International Airport yesterday on a flight bringing not only soldiers home, but also many civilians who staffed the store.

"Tim Hortons was the part that truly provided a taste of home for them," said Bill Pigden, manager of the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Programs Division, which operated the outlet.

Pigden said after the store was shut down, workers went back in and produced the last Timbits at 11 p.m. They were frozen for a month and arrived in two boxes yesterday, signed by soldiers.

Upon arrival in Edmonton, they were passed off to Jim Peverley, director of deployment support with Canadian Forces Personnel and Family Support Services.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

WHO KNEW IT WAS SO EASY FOR A DOG TO MAKE MONEY ONLINE

Even Google is sending cheques to Shiner, a young English Bull Terrier, a newbie to the Internet.

As visitors go to **www.WhoLetTheDogIn.com** and click on the ads, Shiner is making money, even while he's at the dog park.

As Shiner doesn't write he has people sending in their pet pictures and submitting their stories so he can build up his website's content filled with these ads. Genius!

Shiner is selling his own eBooks, which he had written for him. He has a product line of T-Shirts, Mugs and Hats from an affiliate partner that fulfills each order on demand, handles his payments and shipping and then sends him cheques. Plus, he's featuring an array of products direct from Sky Mall, who are paying him too. Last but not leash, he is sending referral leads to companies he has a relationship with.

Entrepreneur Lee Romanov, who made her own online fortune and sold her Internet Business to Torstar, owner of the Toronto Star Newspaper, wanted to prove to people that when you combine the **'knowledge of what to do'** to make money online with the **'technology to make it happen'** even a dog can earn an online income.

"I created a website, with revenue streams easily activated, that even my dog Shiner is making money online" says Romanov. **IncomeActivator.com** instantly gives you a website and how-to-steps for generating your own online revenue."

"I'm hoping Shiner's online success will show people that if he can do it, they can too."

Others who have their own online business and are not making the kind of money they thought they would online, could also learn a trick or two from Shiner.

Shiner... like many of us; can't afford to pay a webmaster to create website pages, add pictures, videos and links to his website. With his Income Activator website program it's easy to do, with or without thumbs. You can create opt in forms, surveys, and questionnaires as easily as you can type. You can collect data, emails, and send out messages to your clients when ever you want. You may even get an email from Shiner one day.

Having Google Ads that pay you is as simple as copying and pasting a line of code into your website. In a matter of hours Google Ads appear on your website pages, so you can be paid when a visitor to your site clicks on them. IncomeActivator.com shows you exactly how to do it, and you can do it yourself in minutes.

And IncomeActivator.com has its own **Pay Per Click** program where you can keep 100% of the ad revenue from clicks.

IncomeActivator.com also has a built in referral, lead generating revenue program. You are probably already recommending which companies or services people should use, except now you can get paid for it.

IncomeActivator.com shows you how to create your own eBooks, that you can sell on your own online store.

Payments can be made through PayPal, a credit card service set up by Income Activator, or a credit card service you have already set up to use. If you're not into writing, like Shiner, Income Activator shows you where to go for outsourcing. On average, it costs $1 per page written.

If you're dream was to always have your own product lines, like Shiner, IncomeActivator.com shows you were you can go to personalize hundreds of ready to go products, that takes payments for you, ships, and sends your a cheque, all without costing you a dime to set up.

Income Activator also shows you which companies you can sell for and which ones can earn you up to a 50% commission.

You can also set up your own comments section on your website, much like a blog... something Shiner's seriously looking at. Plus you can set up your own Member's Section and charge for access if you want.

Anyone with an online business that can't do all these things through their own website is behind the times if they want to activate multiple revenue streams and make money from their website. You can easily transfer over your website's content onto the Income Activator website, allowing you to take back control of your online business

Both Shiner and I cordially invite you to visit and browse www.IncomeActivator.com to get your website that allows anyone that can type to activate multiple revenue streams as they are guided through by internet makreting stragtegies.

Most people's biggest concern after getting their Income Activator website program is... if Shiner is going to 'Out Shine' them by making more money then they do.

www.IncomeActivator.com

Lee Romanov, Consumer Advocate
President, Income Activator

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Vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. *Purchase a new (2012) / (2011) [Escape I4 XLT Auto] / [Edge SEL FWD/F-150 Super Cab XLT 4X4 5.0L] for [$23,279]/[$29,999]/[$28,999] after Total Manufacturer Rebate of ($3,500)/($4,000)/$9,500) deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Vehicle shown is a F-150 Super Cab XLT model with XTR Package with MSRP of $42,299. Offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers. Dealer may sell or lease for less. **Based on R.L. Polk Canada, Inc. vehicle registrations data, YTD October 2011. Class is small utility, full-size pickup truck, and full-size van, respectively. ***Based on R.L. Polk Canada, Inc. vehicle registrations data, YTD October 2011. Class is small utility. †† Offer(s) may be applied towards the purchase or lease of one (1) 2011 Escape (excluding I4 manual), 2011 Expedition / (2012 Expedition) / (2012 Focus (excluding S), 2011 Ranger Super Cab (excluding XL), 2011 and 2012 F-150 (excluding regular cab XL 4x2 and Raptor), 2011 and 2012 F-250 to F-450 (excluding chassis cabs), 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Mustang (excluding Value Leader, GT500 and BOSS 302), 2012 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 Escape (excluding I4 Manual) models for a maximum of [36] / [48] / [60] months to qualified retail customers, on approved credit (OAC) from Ford Credit. Not all buyers will qualify for the lowest interest rate. Example: $30,000 purchase financed at 0% APR for 60 months, monthly payment is $500, cost of borrowing is $0 or APR of 0%, and total to be repaid is $30,000. Down payment on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Ford Credit. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. †† From Dec. 1, 2011 to Dec. 15, 2011, receive $500/ $1,000/ $1,500/ $1,750/ $2,000/ $2,250/ $2,500/ $3,000/ $3,500/ $4,000/ $4,500/ $5,000/ $5,500/ $6,000/ $6,500/ $7,000/ $7,500/ $8,000/ $8,500/ $9,500/ $10,000 in Manufacturer Rebates with the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Focus S, 2011 Edge SE, 2011 Explorer Base, 2011 and 2012 E-Series/ 2011 Escape I4 Manual, 2011 Fiesta S, 2011 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Fiesta (excluding S), 2012 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Transit Connect (excluding electric)/ 2011 Fusion S, 2011 Mustang 2dr Coupe V6 Value Leader, 2011 Flex SE, 2011 F-150 5.0L Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader, 2012 Edge (excluding SE)/ 2012 Mustang V6 Value Leader/ 2011 Ranger Super Cab XL and Regular Cab FEL, 2012 Focus (excluding S), 2012 SuperDuty Chassis Cabs/ 2011 Fiesta (excluding S), 2011 Transit Connect/ 2011 Taurus SE, 2011 Edge AWD (excluding SE)/ 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Flex (excluding SE)/ 2012 Escape (excluding I4 Manual & V6), 2011 Focus (excluding S), 2011 and 2012 Mustang V6 (excluding Value leader), 2011 Edge FWD (excluding SE)/ 2011 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Escape V6, 2011 Escape (excluding I4 Manual & V6), 2011 SuperDuty Chassis Cabs, 2012 Mustang GT, 2012 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 Expedition/ 2011 Escape V6, 2011 Mustang GT, 2011 Flex (excluding SE)/ 2012 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2), 2012 F-250 to F-450 Gas engine (excluding Chassis Cab)/ 2011 Taurus (excluding SE)/ 2011 Ranger SuperCab (excluding XL), 2012 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew/ 2011 Expedition, 2011 F-150 Regular Cab (excl 5.0L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2012 F-250 to F-450 diesel (excluding chassis cabs)/ 2011 F-150 5.0L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2011 F-250 to F-450 Gas engine (excluding chassis cabs)/ 2011 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew/ 2011 F-250 to F-450 diesel (excluding chassis cabs) vehicle. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ‡Program in effect from October 1, 2011 to January 3, 2012 (the "Program Period"). To qualify, customer must turn in a 2005-model-year-or-older vehicle that is in running condition (able to start and move and without missing parts) and has been properly registered/plated or insured for the last 3 months (the "Criteria"). Eligible customers will receive $500/ / $1,000/ / $1,500/ / $1,750/ $2,000/ $2,250/ $2,500/ $3,000/ $3,500/ $4,000/ $4,500/ $5,000/ $5,500/ $6,000/ $6,500/ $7,000/ $7,500/ $8,000/ $8,500/ $9,500/ $10,000 towards the purchase or lease of a new 2011/2012 Ford (excluding S), Focus (excluding S), Taurus (excluding SE), Mustang (excluding Value Leader), Escape (excluding Value Leader), Transit Connect (excluding EV), Ranger (excluding Regular Cab 4x2 XL), Edge (excluding SE), Flex (excluding SE), Explorer (excluding base), / F-150 (excluding Regular Cab 4x2 XL), Expedition, E-Series) / (F-250-550) – all Raptor, GT500, BOSS302, and Medium Truck models excluded (each an "Eligible Vehicle"), taxes payable before Rebate amount is deducted. To qualify: (i) customer must, at the time of the Eligible Vehicle sale, provide the Dealer with (a) sufficient proof of Criteria; and (b) signed original ownership transferring customer vehicle to the Authorized Recycler; and (ii) Eligible Vehicle must be purchased, leased, or factory ordered during the Program Period. Offer only available to residents of Canada and payable in the form of a Manufacturer Rebate. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ‡‡Offer only valid from December 1, 2011 to January 31, 2012 (the "Offer Period"). To be eligible, customer must, at the time of the Eligible Vehicle sale, provide the Dealer with (a) sufficient proof of Criteria; and (b) signed original ownership transferring customer vehicle to the Authorized Recycler; and (ii) Eligible Vehicle must be purchased, leased, or factory ordered during the Program Period. Offer only available to residents of Canada and payable in the form of a Manufacturer Rebate. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offer, see dealer for details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ‡Program in effect from October 1, 2011 to January 3, 2012 (the "Program Period"). To qualify, customer must turn in a 2005-model-year-or-older vehicle that is in running condition (able to start and move and without missing parts) and has been properly registered/plated or insured for the last 3 months (the "Criteria"). Eligible customers will receive $500/ / $1,000/ / $1,500/ / $1,750/ $2,000/ $2,250/ $2,500/ $3,000/ $3,500/ $4,000/ $4,500/ $5,000/ $5,500/ $6,000/ $6,500/ $7,000/ $7,500/ $8,000/ $8,500/ $9,500/ $10,000 in Manufacturer Rebates with the purchase or lease of a new 2011 Focus S, 2011 Edge SE, 2011 Explorer Base, 2011 and 2012 E-Series/ 2011 Escape I4 Manual, 2011 Fiesta S, 2011 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Fiesta (excluding S), 2012 Explorer (excluding Base), 2012 Transit Connect (excluding electric)/ 2011 Fusion S, 2011 Mustang 2dr Coupe V6 Value Leader, 2011 Flex SE, 2011 F-150 5.0L Regular Cab XL 4x2 Value Leader, 2012 Edge (excluding SE)/ 2012 Mustang V6 Value Leader/ 2011 Ranger Super Cab XL and Regular Cab FEL, 2012 Focus (excluding S), 2012 SuperDuty Chassis Cabs/ 2011 Fiesta (excluding S), 2011 Transit Connect/ 2011 Taurus SE, 2011 Edge AWD (excluding SE)/ 2012 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Flex (excluding SE)/ 2012 Escape (excluding I4 Manual & V6), 2011 Focus (excluding S), 2011 and 2012 Mustang V6 (excluding Value leader), 2011 Edge FWD (excluding SE)/ 2011 Fusion (excluding S), 2012 Escape V6, 2011 Escape (excluding I4 Manual & V6), 2011 SuperDuty Chassis Cabs, 2012 Mustang GT, 2012 Taurus (excluding SE), 2012 Expedition/ 2011 Escape V6, 2011 Mustang GT, 2011 Flex (excluding SE)/ 2012 F-150 Regular Cab (excluding XL 4x2), 2012 F-250 to F-450 Gas engine (excluding Chassis Cab)/ 2011 Taurus (excluding SE)/ 2011 Ranger SuperCab (excluding XL), 2012 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew/ 2011 Expedition, 2011 F-150 Regular Cab (excl 5.0L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2012 F-250 to F-450 diesel (excluding chassis cabs)/ 2011 F-150 5.0L (excluding XL 4x2)/ 2011 F-250 to F-450 Gas engine (excluding chassis cabs)/ 2011 F-150 Super Cab and Super Crew/ 2011 F-250 to F-450 diesel (excluding chassis cabs) vehicle

Sectarian violence on the rise in Syria

Opposition figures accuse Assad's minority Alawite regime of trying to stir up trouble with Sunni majority

Dozens of bodies were dumped in the streets of a Syrian city at the heart of the country's nearly nine-month-old uprising, a grim sign that sectarian bloodshed is escalating as the country descends further toward civil war.

The discovery in the streets of Homs came as the United States stepped up pressure yesterday on the regime of President Bashar Assad to end its crackdown on the anti-government protests. U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton met in Geneva with Syrian opposition figures and Washington said it was sending its ambassador back to Damascus.

Up to 50 people were killed in Homs on Monday, but details about what happened in Syria's third-largest city only came to light yesterday with reports of retaliatory attacks pitting members of the Alawite sect against Sunnis.

Conflict spreads

- With 4,000 people dead across Syria in the uprising, the conflict is no longer just a matter of government forces firing on peaceful protesters looking to topple Assad's autocratic regime.
- Sectarian overtones are building, because the uprising has unearthed long-simmering grievances that are now exploding into violence.

The sectarian violence is a dire development in Syria, and one that opposition members say plays directly into the regime's hands.

Since the uprising began, Assad portrayed himself as the lone force who can ward off the radicalism and sectarianism that have bedeviled neighbours in Iraq and Lebanon.

"It was an insane escalation," activist Mohamed Saleh told The Associated Press by telephone from Homs. "There were kidnappings and killings in a mad way. People are afraid to go out of their homes."

Thirty-four of the dead were shot execution-style, monitors of the violence said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Royals. Red carpet

▶ The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, arrive to attend a concert in aid of The Prince's Trust City Riots Appeal and The Foundation of Prince William and Prince Harry, at the Royal Albert Hall, in London, last night.

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kate, William attend charity concert

Prince William and Kate Middleton attended the second of two charity concerts by Gary Barlow, frontman for the British band Take That.

Firefighters watch house burn

A Tennessee couple has lost everything after their mobile home burned to the ground as firefighters watched and did nothing.

Vicky Bell told WPSD-TV that firefighters responded but did not put out the blaze because she does not subscribe to the local fire service.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blagojevich was ringleader of schemes: Judge

Rod Blagojevich was clearly the ringleader of the schemes for which he was convicted, a federal judge said yesterday at the sentencing hearing for the ousted Illinois governor on corruption charges that include trying to sell or trade an appointment to President Barack Obama's former Senate seat.

U.S. District Judge James Zagel also said he believed there was ample evidence the former governor wanted $1.5 million in campaign contributions for the Senate seat. The judge's comments could signal a harsher sentence for Blagojevich.

Calling a defence suggestion "absurd" that Blagojevich was manipulated by staffers and advisers, Zagel said it was apparent from secretly recorded tapes that Blagojevich relentlessly worked to use his authority to benefit himself.

PAUL BEATY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Former Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich heads to federal court for his sentencing hearing in Chicago yesterday.

"There is no question from his tone of voice that he was demanding," said Zagel, who added he did not believe Blagojevich when he testified that he planned to name Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan to the Senate.

"His role as leader is clearly shown by his actions."

Blagojevich, who sat at a defence table in a dark pinstripe suit, was expected to address Zagel later in the day.

The impeached state executive-turned-reality TV star faces the prospect of 10 or more years behind bars. If Zagel settles on a sentence of more than a decade, that would make it one of the stiffest penalties imposed for corruption in a state with a long history of crooked politics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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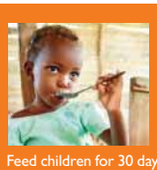
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4273389

Libya sets year-end weapons deadline

New leadership promises jobs, support for former revolutionaries ◗ Tripoli brigade will end this month

Armed residents of the Libyan capital have until the end of December to hand over weapons to authorities, a local government official said yesterday.

The uncontrolled ownership of weapons has been a major security concern since the end of the eight-month civil war that toppled Moammar Gadhafi, and rival revolutionary militias who remain armed have clashed repeatedly.

"All individuals must give up their weapons and go back to civilian life or sign up with security forces with the ministries of defence or interior," said Abdel-Rafik Bu Hajjar, head of Tripoli's city council.

Revolutionary brigades that swept into the capital during the city's fall in August have until Dec. 20 to leave, and the Tripoli brigade itself will dissolve at the end of the month, he told a news conference.

Libya's National Transitional Council has taken a cautious approach to seeking to disarm other fighters nationwide.

Last month, interim-Prime Minister Abdel-Raheem el-Keib said he could not disarm fighters until he has prepared alternatives, including jobs and training. President Mustafa Abdul-Jalil seemed to affirm the slower approach Saturday, noting that 75 per cent of those carrying weapons are unemployed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tripoli rebuilds

- Yesterday, Prime Minister Abdel-Raheem el-Keib's office released a statement welcoming the Tripoli council's initiative to "help clear Tripoli of weapons and unnecessary militia presence."
- The statement said the local military council had begun to establish roadblocks and checkpoints across the city to block the movement of armed vehicles that do not belong to the ministries of interior or defence.

Book. Deal

▶ Amanda Knox, left, and ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito, right, are both working on book deals after an Italian court cleared them of a murder conviction in October.

Knox to tell her side of the story

Amanda Knox, who was cleared of murder and freed from prison by an Italian court in October, has hired a prominent Washington, D.C.-based lawyer as she considers possible book deals, her spokesman said yesterday. Knox, then a college student studying in Italy, and her Italian ex-boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito were convicted in 2009 of murdering her 21-year-old British housemate, Meredith Kercher, in what prosecutors said was a drug-fueled sexual assault.

Conditions apply. Receive a $200 service credit on any new activation of a pre or post paid voice plan valued at $25/month or higher. $8 will be credited to your active account every month for 2 years with a $16 credit on the 24th month. This offer cannot be combined with the Oh Canada promotional offer or Pay Your Way. Learn more at WINDmobile.ca. WIND and WIND MOBILE are trademarks of Wind Telecomunicazioni S.p.A. and are used under license in Canada by Globalive Wireless Management Corp. © 2011 WIND Mobile. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

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Watchdog lays rules for online trackers

Privacy czar says use of web bugs, 'super cookies' is as 'creepy' as being followed around in a shopping mall

Online advertisers who balk at following new guidelines for collecting the personal information of web users could become targets of enforcement, Canada's privacy czar said yesterday.

Releasing the guidance document, Privacy Commissioner Jennifer Stoddart said Internet users should have the clear choice to say no to being tracked.

At their heart, Stoddart said, the guidelines are aimed at promoting trust among consumers, which means respecting privacy rights when it comes to collecting personal information. Many Canadians simply don't know they are being tracked as they browse the web, she said.

"Our daily online roaming leaves an expansive trail of digital bread crumbs that are scooped up, analyzed and amalgamated into profiles so that companies can try to sell us more of their goods and services," Stoddart told an advertising industry conference.

"For the most part, it's happening invisibly."

Stoddart said covert snooping using devices such as web bugs or "super cookies" run afoul of the guidelines because users cannot say no to the tracking. Also, consumers who opt out of tracking should not find they are then barred from accessing a service, according to the guidelines.

Currently, privacy policies are often buried or turn out to be long and legalistic, making it difficult for users to give meaningful consent.

Such policies should be easy to find, read and understand, Stoddart said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

New guidelines

- Users must be able to give meaningful consent to being tracked before or when their data is collected.
- Users must know for what purpose their personal information is collected.
- Trackers must limit retention of data.
- Collection of sensitive information such as medical data should be avoided.
- Knowingly tracking children or using tracking technologies that people can't turn off are off-limits.

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StyleDemocracy.com

Home sales growth to continue: Re/Max

The Re/Max real-estate organization says Canada's housing market has been ahead of expectations this year and growth will likely continue into 2012.

It says home prices are expected to be up in 23 of the 26 local markets that it tracks, with about 464,500 changing hands by the end of 2012.

Re/Max says it expects the upward trend will continue next year but at a more moderate pace.

It expects Calgary, Saskatoon and Halifax-Dartmouth will likely lead the country in unit sales in 2011, with the volume increasing by five per cent.

The Greater Toronto Area, St. John's, Saint John, N.B., Moncton and Regina are expected also to see more sales next year, about three per cent above 2011.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
- 38.08 (12,081.25)	+ 0.70¢ (99.05¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas
+ 29¢ US ($101.28 US)	$3.4870 (+ 2.6¢)

Gold $1,731.80 (- $2.70)

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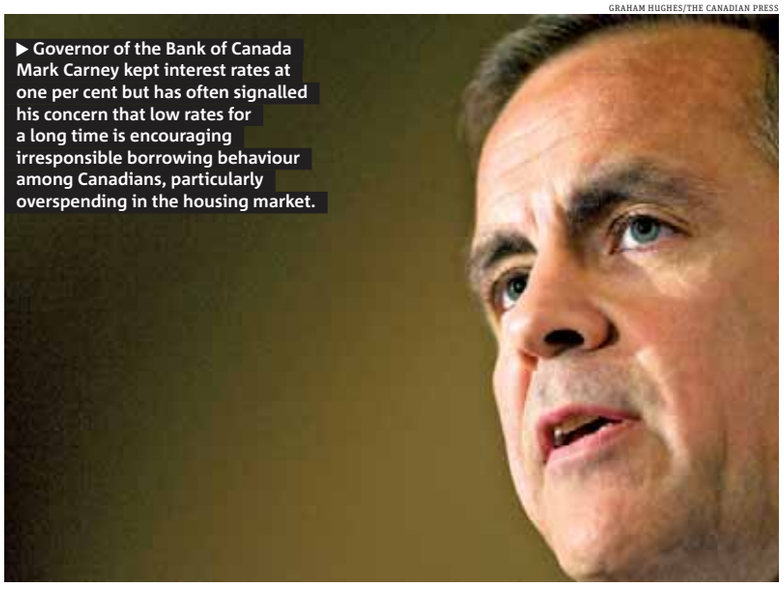
GRAHAM HUGHES/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Governor of the Bank of Canada Mark Carney kept interest rates at one per cent but has often signalled his concern that low rates for a long time is encouraging irresponsible borrowing behaviour among Canadians, particularly overspending in the housing market.

Euro crisis prompts BoC to keep rates ultra-low

Economists not surprised as many expect benchmark overnight rate to stay at one per cent for at least a year

The Bank of Canada is keeping interest rates at ultra-low levels for a while longer, warning yesterday that the economy is facing a series of shocks from around the world likely to temper growth and keep inflation in check.

Bank governor Mark Carney thinks the risks from around an already turbulent world may be intensifying. The bank said it now expects the recession in Europe "to be more pronounced," a downgrade from October when it said the continent would go through a brief slump.

Analysts said the Bank of Canada looks stuck in place at one per cent for a very long time, perhaps well into 2013.

Doug Porter, deputy chief economist with BMO Capital Markets, said the bank would need to see a resolution to the European crisis and sustained stronger growth in the U.S. to entertain raising borrowing costs for Canadians. To cut interest rates further would likely require Canada falling back into recession, he added.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big banks make $6.1B profit in Q4

Canada's five biggest banks earned a record $6.1 billion in fourth-quarter profit, up from $4.5 billion last year, as they benefited from strength in domestic retail banking operations and loan growth. Full-year earnings total $22.4 billion, up from $19.5 billion in 2010.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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BAH, HUMBUG? BLAME DICKENS FOR CHRISTMAS

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Yikes!

It's only the first week of December and I'm already suffering from an overdose of yule. Barely a minute goes by before some company, be it Mercedes Benz or Victoria's Secret, tries to twist my Christmas goodwill into cash at the till. Santa Claus is more common than the cold, and any turkey that survived Thanksgiving is sure to be done like dinner by Dec. 25.

I blame Charles Dickens, who turns 200 not long after Christmas — Feb. 7, 2012, to be precise. Well, actually he's dead and has been since 1870. But the man who wrote A Christmas Carol is no less responsible for Christmas as we know it.

As you know, as it's impossible to avoid, A Christmas Carol is the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserable old fart who sees the error of his ways thanks to being haunted by three very memorable ghosts on Christmas Eve, and becomes an improbably wonderful, kind, generous friend to all, especially to Tiny Tim, his clerk's frail little son.

"Historians believe Christmas is largely the result of a mid-Victorian revival prompted by A Christmas Carol."

Historians believe Christmas is largely the result of a mid-Victorian revival prompted by A Christmas Carol. Dickens reintroduced warmth into what had become mainly a religious holiday by immortalizing family feasts, greeting cards, seasonal food and drink, fun and games, and an SUV under every tree.

Even though it was published in 1843, A Christmas Carol is not going away soon. There are 200 million copies in print. It's been made into a movie at least 20 times, the most recent being the 2009 Disney 3-D version starring Jim Carey as Scrooge.

We are bombarded by the imagery and iconography of this Dickensian Christmas. Holly, yule logs, crackling fires (where would we be without the 24-7 fireplace channel on cable?), gift giving, carols and the like have been co-opted into an orgy of commercial excess that now begins on or about Halloween, another festival with pagan roots that's completely out of control.

If we don't spend more to achieve the perfect Dickensian Christmas this year than we did last year, business commentators scold us for lacking consumer confidence and the market drops.

I suspect that Dickens, if confronted with this spectacle, would exclaim, "Bah, humbug" in his best Scrooge, and storm off into the night. After all, despite the vast sums made from the conversion of Scrooge, Dickens only ever saw profits that would equate to a mere $138,275.10 today.

Of course he was the first to try and cash in, writing a Christmas piece in every subsequent year and featuring Scrooge at many of his profitable public readings.

He may have been the first, but he won't be the last. God bless us, everyone.

Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying

Metropolitan Panel

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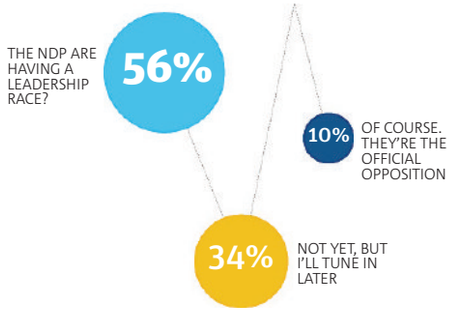
Have you been following the NDP leadership race?



Local tweets

- **@Westendork:** 51 percent of women in Canada over the age of 16 will experience some form of violence Via @whiteribbon #AFutureWithoutViolence #fem2 #Dec6
- **@KarenMock:** Muslim and Jewish women from our Multifaith group stand together in solidarity at UofT Dec 6 memorial vigil vs violence against women
- **@gaylemcf:** #Dec6 , it doesn't stop tonight. Today we mourn, tomorrow we take action. End gender- and all forms of discriminatory violence NOW!
- **@Westendork:** Over 80 percent of women w disabilities will experience some form of violence Via @whiteribbon #AFutureWithoutViolence #ableism #fem2 #Dec6
- **@KristofTO:** @CommanderElvis The # of men who are assaulted is quite shocking! Perhaps it should be renamed, Action against Domestic violence day.
- **@stefinbangarang:** What's the difference between a ham sandwich and #RobFord? 90% of toronto doesn't hate a ham sandwich

WILFREDO LEE PHOTOS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Daily Zoom

Florida crocs make a comeback

A tale of two forces

A wildlife biologist holds a small crocodile that will be released into one of the cooling canals adjacent to the Turkey Point Nuclear Power Plant in Homestead, Fla.

An unexpected but fruitful relationship has blossomed between the American crocodile and the nuclear power plant.

The crocodile-monitoring program began in 1978, a year after employees stumbled upon a crocodile nest in the plant's cooling canal system. It turns out that Florida Power and Light was building prime croc habitat just as virtually every other developer was paving it over.

Wildlife officials give the state's largest public utility part of the credit for a five-fold increase in the species' population in Florida.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

8 Wildlife biologists use an Avid Microchip Scanner to scan the stomach of a small crocodile. Microchips are used as a reference ID, much like a thumb print, to scan the captured animal, as well as to track any animal that falls prey to others as a result of cannibalism. Biologists said one crocodile was found with eight chips inside its belly.

Endangered

A wildlife biologist measures a small crocodile.

- South Florida's rampant development eroded the crocodile's habitat over decades of booming growth. By the 1970s, there were less than 300 in the state. The federal government had classified the species as endangered, meaning it was in danger of becoming extinct.

metro

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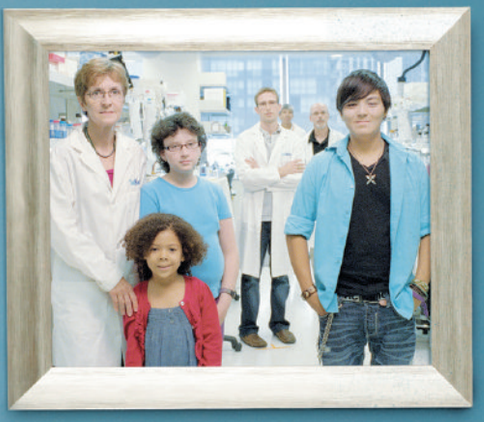

Nevaeh, successful heart transplant at 15 months, with her Mother and Dr. Ian Chen, Transplant Centre.

Discoveries lead to recoveries.

Recoveries in children like Nevaeh, who developed a life-threatening heart condition and received a transplant that saved her life. The work done at SickKids is making a real difference in the lives of children. Countless hours of research, caring staff and state-of-the-art facilities contribute to recoveries like Nevaeh's. But we do need your support. Your donation will help to realize our vision: Healthier Children. A Better World.™

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HANDOUT

▶ Zac Efron and Michelle Pfeiffer star in the romantic comedy New Year's Eve.

Big screen milestones

Efron celebrates sharing a movie kiss with Michelle Pfeiffer They star in New Year's Eve

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

While New Year's Eve isn't the first time Michelle Pfeiffer and Zac Efron have crossed paths on screen — they had a few choice scenes in 2007's Hairspray — it does mark an important milestone in their professional relationship, at least as far as Efron is concerned.

"I met Michelle a few years ago, during Hairspray, and had a huge crush on her — always, from day one. Back then I was very, very young and very bashful, and just around her I tended to put my foot in my mouth a lot. I didn't really know what to say to her, and everything just came out wrong," Efron remembers.

"I didn't know what to do. I was very shy. But then I got to talk on the phone with her about this part, I remember. And she said, 'I think we should take this to the next level. We should really push it. Let's get a kiss in there.' And I was like, 'I'm in! I'm in this movie, sign me up. Let's do it.'"

In the film, another romantic comedy omnibus in the style of Valentine's Day from director Gary Marshal, Pfeiffer stars as Ingrid, a mild-mannered office drone brought out of her shell by Efron's brash bike messenger.

"I'm the envy of every girl across the planet, I think. I got a kiss in there with Zac Efron. Pretty clever of me, at the ripe old age of 53," Pfeiffer says.

Efron is the eternal optimist, though, despite having to battle the elements during filming.

"On the plus side, it was basically us snuggling very close. So it was kind of nice," he says of the frigid conditions. "I felt very comforted."

For Efron, the biggest challenge in the film arose when it came time to finally get that kiss with Pfeiffer.

"I remember I was in my hotel room the night before, imagining how I was going to kiss her, and it was awesome. I was the man in every way," he says.

"And then I went to execute on the day, and right when I got to the crucial moment a huge piece of confetti flew right into my mouth."

Better luck next year.

2 scene

Mueller

A Colorado judge will let actor Charlie Sheen's ex-wife, Brooke Mueller, to return to California following her arrest in Aspen on assault and drug charges.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rango, Rio, Puss, Tintin earn Annie nominations for best animated film

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Stage Notes

JONATHAN NAYMARK
SCENEOPOLIS.COM

A musical with flair

Not seen in Toronto since 2006, Hair is considered the original and groundbreaking rock-musical

JOAN MARCUS

▶ Hair plays at the Royal Alexandra Theatre from Dec. 13 until Dec. 31.

Mirvish Productions brings to Toronto the latest incarnation of one of the most well-known and loved musicals of all time: Hair.

Mirvish's current touring production comes straight to Toronto from an award-winning turn on Broadway, where it was the recipient of the 2009 Tony Award for best revival of a musical, as well as London's West End.

Hair follows a "tribe" of hippies in 1960s New York City who are fighting against the Vietnam War and conscription.

While the story may seem outdated in 21st century North America, the music and morals — duty to oneself versus duty to country — from the original production are just as telling today as they were when Hair debuted on Broadway in 1968.

Featuring some of the most memorable songs written for stage including Aquarius and titular song Hair, the musical is an enjoyable treat for Toronto audiences.

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Mirvish. Legacy

▶ Shirley Douglas was part of a star-studded cast at a tribute for Ed Mirvish yesterday.

RICK EGLINTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Canon Theatre renamed The Ed Mirvish Theatre

One of Toronto's major cultural landmarks has changed its name to honour one of the city's most beloved citizens.

Honest Ed Mirvish, the department store mogul who also became the most influential theatre figure in this city's history, died in 2007.

"We discussed this with him while he was still alive," son David Mirvish told the Toronto Star, "but he felt that it wouldn't be right to do something like that while he was still active and doing things."

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Take an unflinching look into The Eye of the Storm

Director Schepisi talks about his love of working with great actresses

STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

After 30 years in show business, Australian filmmaker Fred Schepisi has discovered at least one thing making his latest movie The Eye of the Storm — he really loves working with actresses.

"It's true," admits the director who's helmed films starring the likes of Meryl Streep and Michelle Pfeiffer.

"I like how they see the world and where they come from and I never try to impose my male thinking on them at all. I ask a lot of questions and get them to present what it really should be."

Perhaps his proficiency with the female character is no clearer than in The Eye of the Storm, a touching dysfunctional drama that stars award-winning thespian Charlotte Rampling as a self-consumed dying matriarch that reunites with her inheritance-hungry adult children.

"If anybody's had somebody die in their family, they actually have trouble talking after the film because they want to express all the feelings that suddenly come up about that subject and can't because it's just churning around inside them," said Schepisi about the film's unexpected reception. "I'm not trying to put people off the movie because it's a pretty funny movie but it engages you in a way you don't expect."

Not only does the festival favourite boast a stunning cast that also includes Oscar winner Geoffrey Rush and two-time nominee Judy Davis, but The Eye of the Storm is especially close to Schepisi, who had to overcome directing his own daughter in a sex scene with Rush.

"If you look carefully, you'll see Geoffrey is very careful," laughed Schepisi. "He's aware that the girl's father is standing right there watching them, which actually worked perfectly…that kind of unease is very good for the scene."

Reaction

Schepisi on audiences' reaction to the movie:

Quote: "The constant comment I get is 'these people are tough, why am I watching these people'," said Schepisi. "Before you know it, you've gone into the film and (people) get all emotional about it, which is good."

Judy Davis, left, Charlotte Rampling and Geoffrey Rush star in The Eye of the Storm.

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GREGORY READ

Hollywood not black and white

Cromwell talks about new film and his dislike of 24

NED EHRBAR
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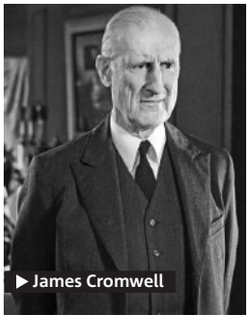
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

A breathless reverence creeps into veteran actor James Cromwell's voice when he discusses The Artist, his silent film from French director Michel Hazanavicius that's earning rave reviews from festival audiences around the world — and generating Oscar buzz. But when it comes to his work on 24 he's far less affectionate — and he doesn't mince words.

This is a very unique project. What was your initial reaction to it?

I don't particularly like homage films if they throw it in your face. I like it if it's as subtly done as it is here — I think it's very subtle and beautifully referential.

HANDOUT



▶ James Cromwell

You had some displeasure working on the series 24.

Could you go into that a bit?

I had never seen the show before, and I took it because my agent said it was important to do, that it would be a good thing. They paid me a lot of money to do it. And then I've taken my son captive and I'm torturing him, then I was going to take my grandson captive and threaten him. So I went to the producers and I said, 'Look, are there any redeeming qualities to this character?' They looked at me as though I was nuts, I was asking something bizarre ... It could've been a great contribution, but they didn't have the imagination for that.

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Sitting through a familiar film

Another babysitter film finds Jonah Hill at the centre of its wacky hijinks Please pass the child-proof aspirin

IN FOCUS

RICHARD CROUSE
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Wikipedia says "babysitting is commonly performed as an odd job by teenagers for extra money." While that is undoubtedly the stereotype, the movies have shown us that babysitters come in all shapes and sizes.

This weekend Jonah Hill plays an irresponsible college student who reluctantly looks after his neighbour's wild kids. How wild is it? Well, let's put it this way; I don't think Nanny McPhee had a "red band" trailer.

If it sounds familiar, it should. Twenty-four years ago babysitter Elisabeth Shue led her young charges through the streets of Chicago in Adventures in Babysitting. At one point they end up on a nightclub stage. The leader of the house band, played by blues legend Albert Collins, says, "Nobody leaves this place without singing the blues."

After an awkward pause she improvises the Babysitting Blues.

"It's so hard babysitting these guys," she sings. "And they should be in bed," replies the guitar player over a classic blues-rock riff.

HANDOUT

▶ Jonah Hill, right, stars in the latest incarnation of a babysitter movie.

It's a fantasy, but then again, babysitters have often been the subjects of fantasy. Mary Poppins is a mythical character, a "practically perfect in every way" nanny who knows how to do the right thing in every situation. Kind of like a Victoria Age Super Nanny. In The Babysitter, however, Alicia Silverstone was a much different kind of fantasy child-minder.

This 1995 thriller about a babysitter who becomes the object of obsession for not only the young boys she looks after but for their father as well, is more chilling than titillating. The ads hinted at some nudity from star Silverstone, but in reality she refused to do the film unless the nude scenes where removed.

The most lovable movie minder has to be John Candy as Uncle Buck. Even though he pretends to be capable of mutilation with power tools, he's less violent than Rebecca De Mornay in The Hand That Rocks the Cradle, manlier than Robin Williams in Mrs. Doubtfire and more alive than all the babysitters in Halloween.

In the movie's most famous scene he answers a barrage of questions from his nephew, played by Macaulay Culkin.

On the day of filming the younger actor couldn't remember all the questions, so Candy wrote them out and hid them where Culkin could read them.

Now that's something a great babysitter would do.

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NATIONAL BANK

The Shore gets another scent

JWOWW is latest celeb to release a signature fragrance ‘Sexy perfume’ reeks of classy rebranding

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Not to be outdone by fellow Jersey Shore cast-member Snooki releasing her own perfume, busty reality star JWoww is releasing her own signature fragrance, too.

The perfume, also called JWoww, comes out just in time for the holiday season, retailing at such choice outlets as Kmart, Amazon.com and JWowwPerfume.com.

According to the press release, JWoww is a “sexy perfume inspired by days and nights down the shore” (note the New Jersey colloquialism “down the shore,” which means “at the beach”).

Just in case we can fool ourselves into thinking this scent wasn’t created by a bunch of Chinese child labourers mixing together a bunch of synthetic compounds into something resembling “sweet,” there’s even a hilarious run down of the “notes” in the $29.99 bottle:

Top notes: Anjou pear, sparkling citron, fresh air
Middle notes: Rose petals, geranium blossom, sheer muguet
Bottom notes: Sandalwood, deep musk, white moss

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Jenni “JWOWW” Farley

A tiny gold JWOWW charm adorns the sleek bottle, which was also created by JWoww. I love that “fresh air” is included as one of the predominant “notes,” in place of, say, “vomit after a night of Red Bull, 2 a.m. chicken wings, and half a case of Miller Lite,” which is what I think of when we think of smells “inspired by days and nights down the shore.”

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Depp's bodyguard accused of assault

▶ Johnny Depp

The Los Angeles Police Department is interested in speaking with Johnny Depp after one of his bodyguards was accused of assaulting a disabled woman at an Iggy Pop concert last week, according to TMZ.

According to the filed complaint, Robyn Ecker — who paid $600 for her tickets to the concert — claims a member of Depp's entourage grabbed her wrists and wrestled her to the ground after she was dancing too close to his VIP table. Ecker went to the hospital before filing the complaint. METRO

Rosie's engaged

Rosie O'Donnell and new girlfriend Michelle Rounds' whirlwind romance just picked up speed, as O'Donnell announced on her talk show that the pair are engaged and will be tying the knot over Christmas, according to Hollyscoop.

According to friends, the couple is "very, very happy." Not so happy? Rounds' parents, who claim they only recently learned their 40-year-old daughter is a lesbian.

"This has been a painful experience for me and my wife," Roger Rounds said previously.

"We'd always held out hope that Michelle would eventually find a nice guy to marry, settle down and have kids. And now this — it's pretty shocking stuff for us to digest." METRO

▶ Rosie O'Donnell

Celebrity tweets

@ConanOBrien

Had a great celebrity sighting today: the @DalaiLama at Chipotle.

@HankAzaria

I confuse tackle with tickle a lot.

@joelmchale

Contest: find the account on twitter w/the fewest # of followers & the largest number of tweets. Prize: DVD of the Chevy Chase's Karate Dog.

@simonpegg

Slightly confusing doing press for two films simultaneously. Keep talking about Ethan Hunt's faithful canine sidekick, Snowy.

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First Tango in Buenos Aires

MARK EVELEIGH

EMMA E. FORREST
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

I've been in Buenos Aires for less than an hour and already I'm feeling the bizarre atmosphere of addiction and romance that's at the heart of the world of tango.

"It used to be just Argentines who danced tango," my taxi driver is enthusing. "Now people come from Australia, Canada, Europe... even Korea and Japan."

Tango attracts particularly dedicated — not to say fanatical — followers and for millions of people the Argentine capital has become the ultimate place of pilgrimage.

Private tango tuition rather than group classes is considered a must, so I'm partnered with fellow tango-virgin, Turkish TV presenter Asli Pelit, for my first foray into the dance. We take our first tentative baby steps as tangueros on Susana Mirosmik's little terrace as steaks sizzle on the parilla (barbecue), which will be a welcome reward for our efforts.

Susana has been dancing tango for more than 20 years and is one of the most well-known faces in the tango scene here. "You must learn to walk before you can dance," she says as she shows us how to move. "A graceful walk is the very basics of the dance."

We move in carefully measured circles around the terrace and begin to grasp the meditative aspect that aficionados claim is the essence of the tango experience.

Some come to Buenos Aires to watch spectacular tango exhibitions or to spend a fortune on months of private lessons. Some dedicated pilgrims come simply to immerse themselves in the serenity of the milongas. These are traditional local dances where the purest tango can be found, and Susana guides us to a milonga at La Nacional. Alcohol consumption is low and voices lower still. The men affect the stance of gentleman matadors and the women demure debutantes. On the dance floor any exuberant exhibitionism is frowned upon. Poise and reserve are the keys to acceptance at a traditional milonga like this.

I'm aware that elegance and matador poise are yet to establish a permanent place in my psyche, but under Susana's guidance I'm at least able to appreciate the under-stated subtleties of milonga footwork.

I might only be on my first steps to tango expertise but it feels good to be able to say that I have at least learned to really walk in Buenos Aires.

TAKES THREE TO TANGO

LEARN

Susana Mirosmik is arguably the best contact to set up tango lessons in Buenos Aires. Her company Su Tours can also arrange everything from tango instructions to accommodation and weeklong tours of upcountry Argentina.
sutours.blogspot.com

PARTIES

Some of the most recommended milongas — traditional local tango dances — are La Nacional, El Arranque and La Ideal. Milongas cost around $5 admission and many include an hour of tuition at the beginning.
buenosaires-milongas.com

SHOWS

The most famous and spectacular tango shows can be seen at Rojo Tango (from $220; rojo-tango.com), at La Ventana Tango (from $90; tangotix.com) and La Esquina Carlos Gardel (esquinacarlosgardel.com.ar).

3 life

Travel in brief

Readers of Global Traveler magazine have voted Air Canada the best airline in North America. The award is based on responses from more than 36,000 readers of the magazine. Global Traveler readers are frequent premium travellers who average 32 round-trip flights a year, with 78 per cent travelling in first or business class regularly. Air Canada says winning the loyalty of premium customers is a priority for all carriers.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The sands of Chimayo

Pilgrims flock to a tiny church in New Mexico hoping for a miracle
For the non-believers, there's plenty of art and history, too

They come in pain and in prayer, seeking cures and a cup of sand from a tiny adobe church called Chimayo.

For two centuries, Hispanic and Native American pilgrims have sought help from El Santuario de Chimayo (pronounced CHEE'-mah-YOH'), located in a mountain hamlet in northern New Mexico. They clutch pictures of sick loved ones, hobble weakly on crutches, and bring stories of hopeless conditions.

They leave small slips of paper asking for mercy and miracles, promise to give up drinking and show more compassion, and they light candles in front of images of saints and La Virgen de Guadalupe, patron of the Americas.

Before they leave, they visit a room in the shrine that houses "el pocito," which means the little well, a small pit of holy adobe-coloured dirt, which some say possesses the power to cure. Just one touch, say those who believe, and cancer might go into remission, or an injured knee might heal. Along the wall hang crutches that are no longer needed, material proof from those who say they've been helped.

"People discover that there's something special here when they come with an open heart and mind," said Rev. Jim Suntum, a priest at Chimayo.

Chimayo is a National Historic Landmark, described in the landmark citation as a "well-preserved, unrestored example of a small adobe church, notable for its original decorations, including numerous superb religious paintings." Some 200,000 people are estimated to visit each year, and Suntum says many of those visits occur during Easter Week. The Archdiocese of Santa Fe says Chimayo has been called the "Lourdes of America."

The history of el pocito goes back 200 years, when legend holds that a friar, performing penances, saw a strange light streaming from a hillside near the Santa Cruz River. The friar began to dig to find the source of the light, and soon uncovered a crucifix. The crucifix was taken to a nearby church several times, but according to the story, it kept mysteriously returning to the place where it was found.

A chapel was built there in 1813, and followers have been returning to pray at el pocito ever since. They take so many cups of dirt to spread over foreheads, hearts and knees, that Chimayo officials must refill the pit periodically with replacement sand that's been blessed. Visitors can purchase small containers of sand for $3 to take to a sick relative, or order the sand from the shrine's website.

But the sites are not just for the faithful; they attract tourists as well. Jenny Hwa, 33, of Winston-Salem, N.C., stopped at the site in July during a cross-country trip. Not knowing the history, Hwa did not have "a lot of expectations" until she saw people around el pocito.

"People were scooping it up like it was gold bars," said Hwa. "I can see how it can be powerful."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- El Santuario de Chimayo is located at 15 Santuario Drive, Chimayo, N.M., 13 kilometres east of Espanola, about 50 km north of Santa Fe and 65 km south of Taos.
- Website: elsantuariodechimayo.us
- Hours: Open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. October to April and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from May to September.

RUSSELL CONTRERAS

▶ Chimayo is a small adobe church known for its religious paintings, original decorations and, according to believers, power to heal.

▶ For 200 years, Hispanic and Native American pilgrims have sought help from Chimayo.

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Postcards from the planet

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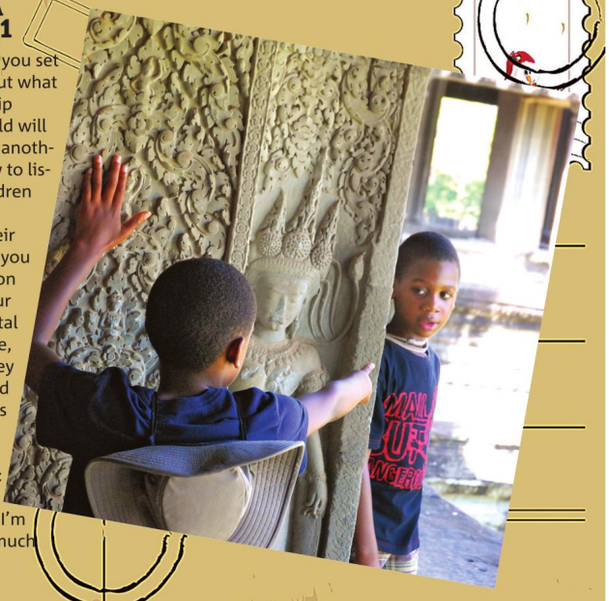

It's easy, before you set out, to talk about what you believe a trip around the world will teach them. It's another thing entirely to listen as your children converse, ask questions of their guide or regale you with their take on which of the four ancient elemental baths (earth, fire, wind, water) they would have liked to visit 800 years ago. As they speak, two things are clear: History is alive on this trip and I'm the student as much as the teacher.

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My favourite spot in Canada

JESSICA HOLMES: LAND O'LAKES REGION, ONT.

My family has been renting cottages in the Land O' Lakes region for more than 30 years. It's a tough area to describe, because the only towns nearby are likely ones too small to show up on most maps: Harlowe, Cloyne, Northbrook... So for arguments sake, let's just say it's in a heavily-treed area about three hours northeast of Toronto. Not to be mistaken for Muskoka, this area doesn't have five-star resorts. It's more like trailer parks and church bean bakes, but we decided it's home away from home for us, and last year we bought a trailer at the park where I've been cottaging every summer since I was a kid. What it lacks in prestige, it makes up for in serenity and convenience. It's our slice of heaven.

MATHEWINGRAM/FLICKR

BEST KNOWN FOR HER WORK ON ROYAL CANADIAN AIR FARCE, JESSICA HOLMES IS CURRENTLY STARRING IN ROSS PETTY'S HOLIDAY PANTO VERSION OF THE WIZARD OF OZ, AT THE ELGIN THEATRE.

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The lights of the Falls

In winter, Niagara Falls comes to 'light' in a dazzling array of colours for up to seven hours each night

▶ Frequently, the colours chosen to light Niagara Falls are picked to honour a cause.

You can't take a boat ride into the roar and spray of Niagara Falls in the winter, but this time of year offers a different spectacle: Nighttime illumination of the falls in a changing array of colours — red, white, blue, purple, orange, amber and green.

In spring and summer, the coloured lights shine for just three hours, but with less daylight in winter, curtains of colour wash over the falls each night for up to seven hours.

Crowds gather along the sidewalk and railing on Niagara Parkway to see the show as mist rises from the falls and basin in front of them; others watch from the windows of hotels and restaurants on the Canadian side.

The display starts with patriotic themes — red, white and blue for the American Falls, red and white for the horseshoe-shaped Canadian Falls — and frequently includes colours to honour a cause.

When Niagara Falls hosted the first wedding following New York's legalization of same-sex marriage in July, Mayor Paul Dyster arranged for a rainbow of colours, the symbol of gay pride.

On Nov. 16, the falls were lit by white light for 15-minute stretches for lung cancer awareness, a request made by Christine Dwyer, who founded a group called Make Some Noise for Lung Cancer Awareness after losing her best friend to the disease.

"I think it validates us a bit," said Dwyer, of Becket, Mass.

The light beams emanate from a bank of 18 spotlights, each about 75 centimetres in diameter, sitting atop a raised stone bunker across the road. For more than 50 years, Peter Gordon, 80, has been manning the light show, splitting the week with "the rookie," Dick Mann, 78, who has been at it just under 30 years.

Both are from Ontario.

"I never get tired of it," Gordon, 80, said one night in November, the start of his busy season, when fewer daylight hours mean longer nights to light.

The best views come on crisp winter nights, Gordon said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

If you go...

- niagaraparks.com/attractions/falls-illumination.html
- The falls are currently illuminated in colour from 5 p.m. to midnight, with shorter hours as dusk and daylight change according to the season.

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Season was made for cookies

The holidays are all about tasty sweets and treats • These can be frozen for up to 1 month

HOLIDAY HELPER

EMILY RICHARDS
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

These cookies not only can be enjoyed fresh but they freeze well and are perfect to share at a cookie exchange.

Ingredients:

- 2 1/4 cups (550 mL) all purpose flour
- 1/3 cup (75 mL) unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) each baking powder and soda
- Pinch salt
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) butter
- 3/4 cup (175 mL) granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) sour cream
- 1 tbsp (15 mL) vanilla
- 1 tsp (5 mL) instant espresso powder
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) cocoa nibs
- 1/4 cup (50 mL) mini chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup (125 mL) icing sugar

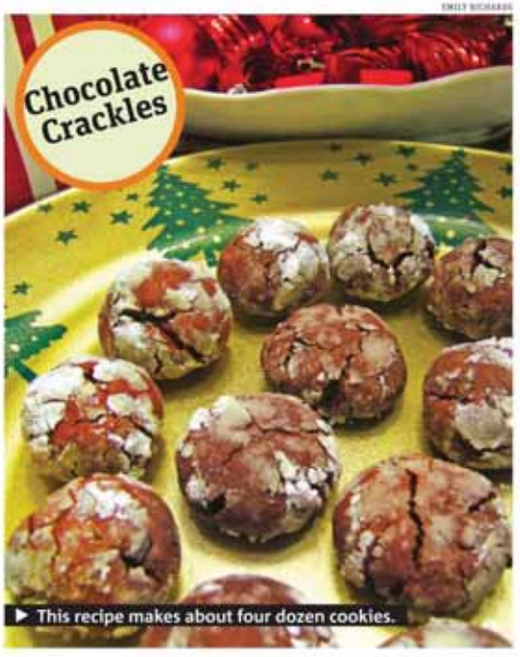
Preparation:

1. In bowl, whisk flour, cocoa powder, baking powder, soda and salt.
2. In another bowl beat butter and sugar until fluffy. Beat in egg and sour cream. Stir espresso powder into vanilla, add to butter mix; beat to combine.
3. Stir in flour mix and stir until combined. Stir in cocoa nibs and chocolate chips until combined. Roll level tablespoon (15 mL) of dough into a ball and roll into icing sugar and place on parchment paper lined baking sheet. Bake in centre of 350 F (180 C) oven for about 10 minutes or until top is cracked and firm to the touch. Repeat with remaining dough. Let cool in pan on rack. **EMILY IS A HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR & CHEF (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Holiday prep

We're here to help
Every Wednesday until Christmas, Metro's Emily Richards will provide you tips to make the holiday whirlwind less stressful.

EMILY RICHARDS



This recipe makes about four dozen cookies.

Drink of the week

Clementine Rosemary Martini

- 2 oz dry gin
- 1 oz Lillet Blanc
- 1 clementine, quartered
- 1 sprig rosemary
- 1 tsp lemon simple syrup
- Candied lemon peel

Muddle clementine, including peel, with needles from rosemary sprig. Add other ingredients, shake with ice, and strain into cold martini glass. Garnish with another sprig and a small amount of candied lemon peel.

Note: To make candied lemon peel and simple syrup, peel 3 lemons (avoiding white pith) and thinly slice. Boil strips with 500 ml water and 2 cups sugar until lemon turns translucent. Strain lemon out and let dry on baking tray. Add little water to leftover lemon syrup if needed. **JOE HOWELL, HEAD BARTENDER AT THE SPOKE CLUB (THESPOKECLUB.COM)**

Do what you love... never work one day

Seize all the opportunities that come your way in post-secondary and watch as the doors open up to you

STUDENT VOICE

ASAD CHISHTI
TALENTEGG.CA

The more I want something, the less I call it work.

There is, in my experience, no reason in this day and age for you to be working at a place or doing something you don't enjoy.

The career you do want to pursue requires now, more than ever, that you create your own experience.

Too many of my friends all across Canada are struggling after graduation to find work, struggling during university to find placements that aren't voluntary for their co-op terms, and are trying to find work in the summer and being turned down from hundreds of job postings relevant to their field of study.

As a second year engineering chemistry student at Queen's University, I'm not sure what the future holds for my career path.

Some of the graduates from my program go into consulting, some go into research and development, a few outliers become entrepreneurs — most return to school for graduate studies.

But it seems like to get a job, networking matters. The jobs that I've held have been both part-time and referred to me by people who worked there.

It is no surprise that fresh undergraduates are now competing not only among each other but also among more qualified, more experienced veterans of the job industry.

It's important to find an edge over the competition and to stand out by creating an outlet for your passion and future career. I believe we can take charge of our own future by getting involved now.

Because I think it's very important to dabble and supplement my studies with as many skills as possible, and I'm very involved in extra-curricular activities. I'm the assistant photo editor for the Queen's Journal, Canada's second oldest newspaper.

I help run an annual independently-organized TED talks event, TEDxQueensU.

Along with this, I've founded and am currently the chapter President of Journalists for Human Rights (JHR) Queen's University Chapter. JHR is Canada's largest international media development organization. Our goal is to make everyone in the world fully aware of their rights.

It is a Toronto-based organization that trains journalists in Africa while the university chapters raise awareness about local issues and problems.

Employers need to look past the grades and the degrees. Students should be hired based on their ability to learn, not based on what they've already learned.

Watch out for the students who are already taking on different roles and establishing relationships. The university experience is not just about your transcript, it's about the people you meet and the opportunities you have as an individual to grow outside the classroom setting.

I think employers should give new hires ownership of their work.

Start-ups are phenomenal — even when they fail, because everyone on the team has a personal stake in the business and understands how their work affects the product, impacts the customer and ultimately helps build a team that the company relies on.

TALENTEGG.CA, CANADA'S ONLINE CAREER RESOURCE FOR STUDENTS AND RECENT GRADS, WANTS TO HEAR YOUR STUDENT VOICE. SHARE IT AT TALENTEGG.CA.

▶ Asad Chishti encourages employers to take note of a student's involvement in extra-curricular activities rather than simply considering their work experience.

What I learned

Key take-aways from Asad's experience

- Don't be afraid to be non-traditional, to step outside of the classroom and learn from there.
- Your grades do matter of course, but university is also about the friends you find and the relationships that bind.
- Keep your options open, get involved early and if you can't find an opportunity, create one.

Where Asad is now

I'm currently a second year engineering-chemistry student at Queen's. (And I love it!)

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Holiday bonus?

Is your office on Santa's good list this year? In these unstable financial times, it may not matter

JULIA WEST
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

When your job security is already on shaky ground, hinting at end-of-year bonuses in front of your boss may not be the best bet.

"For some companies, the economy is still dicey. For those that will give bonuses, the amounts will be all over the place," says Michael Galey, an attorney in the Philadelphia office of Fisher & Phillips, a national firm that represents employers.

Keep in mind that a bonus is just that: a little something extra that companies provide if they can. Your padded paycheck depends on your company's financial ability.

ISTOCK

▶ The gift of keeping your job may have to be enough this year.

"As owner of Between the Bread, I have held back on giving bonuses for the past two years. And unfortunately I am not planning on giving bonuses this year either," says Ricky Eisen of this year's situation at his Manhattan catering company.

"The extremely difficult economic climate has necessitated the constant weighing and shifting of priorities and prompts questions like, 'Do we keep all of our staff employed? Do we let some go, and give modest bonuses to the remaining employees? Do we hold onto the cash we accrued over the year? Or do we give the cash as bonuses and start the year with less operating and emergency cash?'"

On the other hand, a study developed by Robert Half International polled 1,250 senior executives employed at firms that gave bonuses last year and found that of those interviewed, 30 per cent expected to give even bigger bonuses than they did last year.

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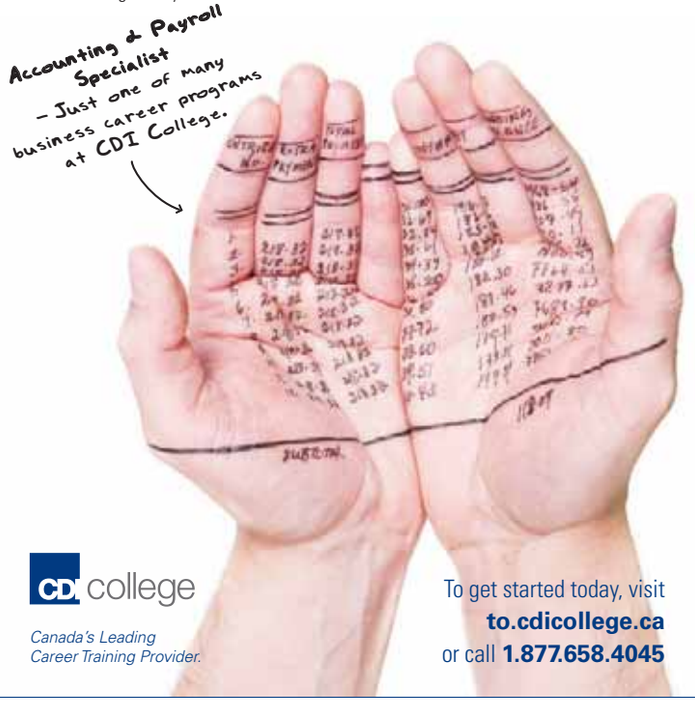

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Digital detectives wanted

So you've been spending all your free time creeping on your acquaintances

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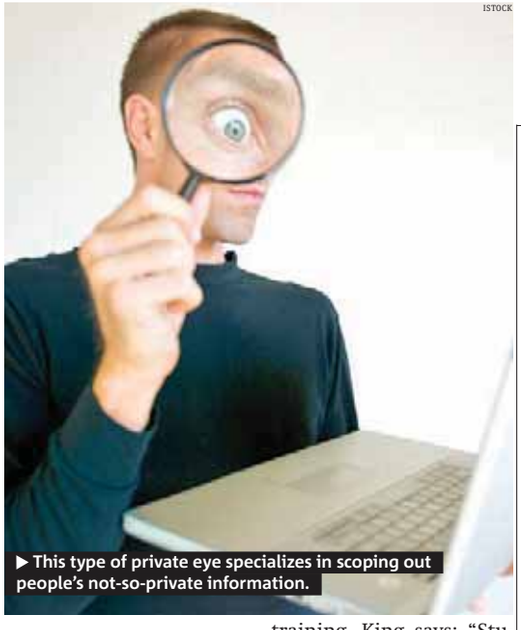


ISTOCK

▶ This type of private eye specializes in scoping out people's not-so-private information.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
MWN IN PHILADELPHIA

With more and more kinds of electronic gadgets for storing and manipulating data, experts in computer forensics need to deal with a lot more than just computers.

"Smartphones, iPads, tablets, GPS systems, game consoles, still and video cameras, the computers on cars — computer forensics techs are experts at extracting digital data so it can be used in court," explains Pamela King, director of the computer forensics program at Community College of Philadelphia.

The program, available at both the Center City and Northwest campuses, incorporates hands-on training. King says: "Students take classes in computer science and in criminal justice — and then specific computer forensics courses that bring these two fields together."

Students include people working in IT and paralegals who want to specialize in a growing field. There are also a fair number of career-changers, including people leaving the military.

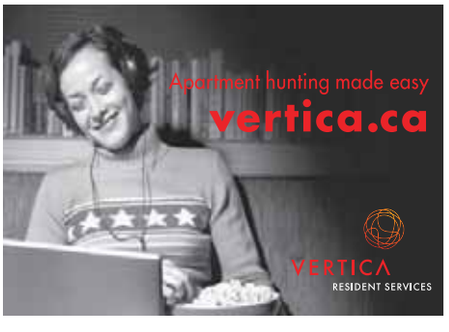
"The combination of technology and law enforcement makes the field a good fit for them," King says.

Some graduates begin working as soon as they get their associate's degree. Others go on to complete bachelor's degrees, though there are only a few four-year programs in the area — including Drexel, Chestnut Hill College and Holy Family. "It's exciting that [CCP] is one of so few schools offering this training," King says.

Job search

Graduates may seek employment with:

- Local law enforcement agencies
- Federal agencies ranging from the CIA to the IRS
- Private security firms
- Law firms and banks
- Corporations



Kingdom of the Netherlands

WANTED
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Students can win an arty Dutch Vincent van Gogh bike and much more!

Vincent van Gogh goes to school

A Canada wide school project with great opportunities

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Ever heard of a guy called Vincent van Gogh? The famous Dutch artist who was born more than 150 years ago in the Netherlands and who became known as an innovator in the art world. If you have heard of him, did you ever wonder how it would be to follow in his footsteps and use your own creativity just as he did? The Netherlands Embassy and its network in Canada invite teachers and students to participate in the 'Vincent van Gogh goes to school' project, which will run from February – June 2012. The project is designed for children between the ages of 6 and 16 years old. Both elementary and high schools can join.

The school project coincides with Vincent's visit to Canada in the spring of 2012: the National Gallery of Canada, located in the capital Ottawa, will host 'Van Gogh: Up Close' from May 25 – September 3 (2012). It will be the first major Canadian exhibition of works by the famous Dutch artist for more than 25 years.

Useful teacher's kit

Join us right now and we will send a teacher's kit including the 'See and Do Children's Book' from Ceciel de Bie and Martijn Leenen, a dvd about the life of 'Vincent van Gogh' to use in a class room setting. The teacher's kit will be distributed on a first come first served principle; last entries no later than January 17, 2012.

Learn, explore and experience

- **Learn** together with schools in the Netherlands that are participating in this project and would like to connect with schools in Canada.
- **Explore** possibilities of the 'Vincent van Gogh goes to school' project in your own class: it is not just about art per se. Van Gogh can be a history project, a biology project or even a language class.
- **Experience** the Netherlands and discover interesting facts about the Dutch, their country and the friendship with Canada.

Make – with your classmates and with the support of your teacher – an awesome painting of sunflowers; write a letter to Vincent; or, how about using your creativity to produce a movie, a rap, a comic, a poster, a board game or a picture? Increase your chances to win by uploading a video, a song, or a picture to the specially designed ivincentincanada Facebook page from the Netherlands Embassy. Students can also sign up individually, and will be organized in the appropriate age category: The Sun Flowers – age group 6 – 10; The Irises – age group 10 – 13 and The Wild Roses – age group 13 – 16.

Are you in?

For more information on this project , to register and to receive the kit, send an email to:
ott-ppc@minbuza.nl
For all the details about the contest:
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Facebook.com/thenetherlandsincanada

Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands - www.dutchmissions.com

In the black or bust: Students

These post-secondary pupils are starving, sleepless and stressed out But one thing they're not is in debt

Jesse Yeh uses the University of California-Berkeley library instead of buying textbooks. He scrounges for free food at campus events and occasionally skips meals. He's stopped exercising and sleeps five to six hours per night so he can take 21 credits — a course load so heavy he had to get special permission from a dean.

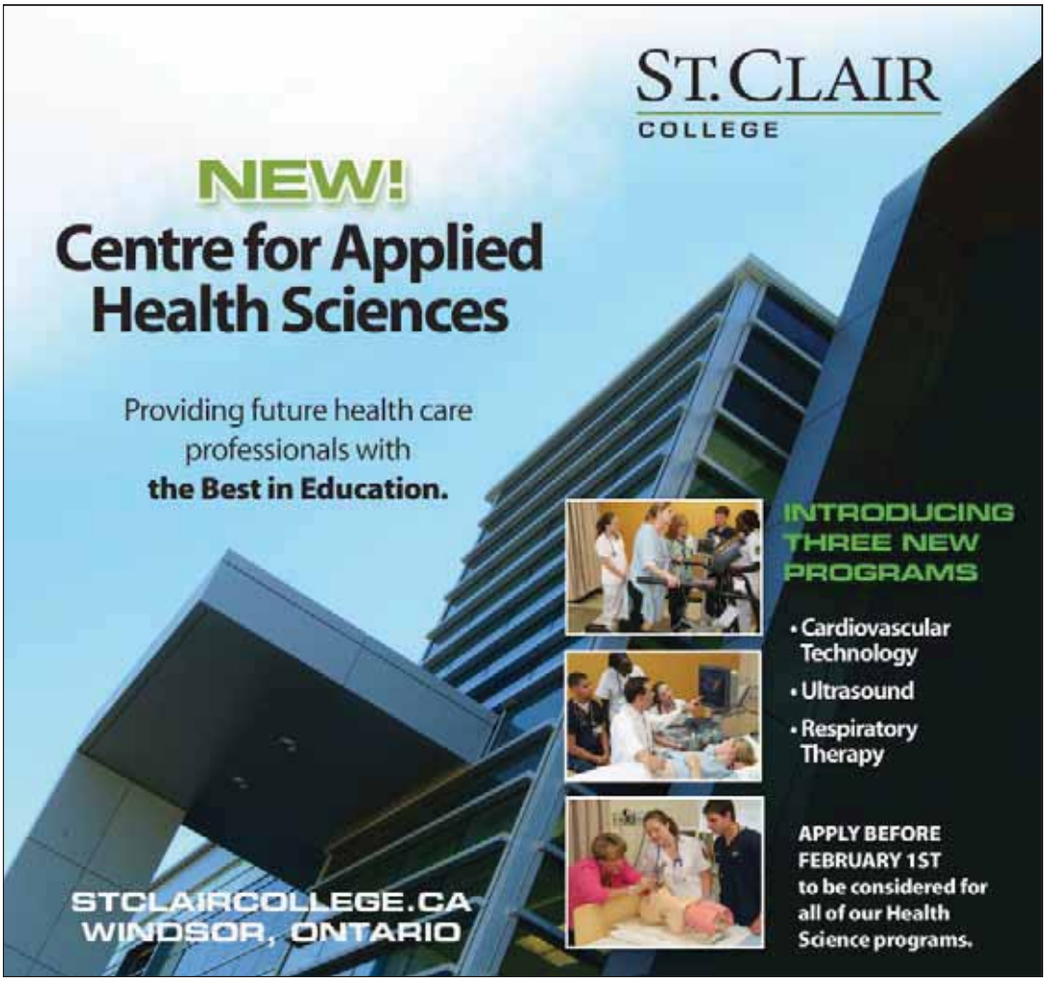
The only thing he won't do: take out a student loan.

"I see a lot of my friends who took out student loans, then they graduated and because of the economy right now they still couldn't find a job," said the third-year student, whose parents both lost their jobs in 2009 and who grew up in the boom-and-bust town of Victorville, Calif., on a block with several houses in foreclosure. "The debt burden is really heavy on them."

Even as college prices and average student loan debt rise, educators in some sectors of higher education report they're also seeing plenty of students like Yeh. After watching

"I see a lot of my friends who took out student loans, then they graduated and because of the economy right now they still couldn't find a job."
JESSE YEH, UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Bio of a non-borrower: Isaac Romero, 22, a third-year student at Long Beach City College, works a nearly 40-hour-per-week job with a workforce staffing company that has him on assignment at City Hall. He goes straight from there to class from roughly 4 until 9:40. Two bus rides later he gets home, often around midnight. Weekends are for homework. He ignores the loan solicitations that flood his mailbox.



debt cause widespread damage in their families and communities, they're determined to avoid loans no matter what.

ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Jesse Yeh along with many university and college students is refusing to take out any student loans.

What's surprising is this: Educators aren't sure that's always such a good thing.

Students who take extreme steps to avoid debt at all costs, they say, may get stuck with something much more financially damaging than moderate student loan debt. They may not wind up with a college degree.

To pay for college and minimize borrowing, students are working longer hours at jobs and taking fewer credits. They're less likely to enrol full-time. They're living at home. They're "trading down" to less selective institutions with lower prices, and heading first to cheaper community colleges with plans to transfer later to four-year schools.

Those may sound like money-savers, but in fact each is a well-documented risk factor that makes students less likely to graduate.

"There's been such attention on student debt being unmanageable that current students have internalized that," said Deborah Santiago, co-founder and vice-president for policy research at the group Excelencia in Education, a non-profit advocacy group. In fact, "If you can take out a little bit of loan you're more likely to complete. If you can go to a more selective institution that gives you more resources and support, you're more likely to complete."

Student debt aversion is most pronounced among Hispanics and Asians, who borrow at lower rates than whites despite having higher financial need. And it appears to have the greatest consequences for Hispanics and blacks.

Fifty-one per cent of blacks who had financial need but decided not to borrow had left school within three years without a degree, compared to 39 per cent of those who borrowed, the study by Excelencia and IHEP found. For Hispanics, 41 per cent of non-borrowers had left, compared to 32 per cent who borrowed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loan some

What's the upside of borrowing?

- Federal data analyzed by Santiago's group and The Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP) in 2008 shows roughly 86 per cent of students who borrow for college are able to attend full-time, compared to 70 per cent of students who don't borrow.
- That matters because roughly 60 per cent of full-time students receive a bachelor's degree within eight years, compared to 25 per cent of part-time students.
- Other research, meanwhile, shows just 26 per cent of students who enrol in a community college hoping eventually to earn a four-year bachelor's degree succeed within nine years. That compares to 50 per cent starting at non-selective four-year colleges and 73 per cent at selective schools.

Jays land White Sox closer in trade

The Toronto Blue Jays acquired closer Sergio Santos from the Chicago White Sox yesterday, bringing the pitcher back to the organization where he spent three seasons trying to make the majors as a shortstop.

Toronto gave up pitching prospect Nestor Molina to acquire the 28-year-old Santos in a swap made at baseball's winter meetings.

Santos earned 30 saves in 36 chances last season, going 4-5 with a 3.55 earned-run average in 63 games. The 28-year-old righty is a strikeout pitcher, fanning 92 in 65⅓ innings. He made a major league-record 25 straight scoreless appearances on the road to start the season.

Santos was golfing when Toronto general manager Alex Anthopoulos called to tell him about the trade. The deal caught Santos by surprise — a few days after the season ended, he signed an $8.25-million US, three-year contract with the White Sox. Santos said he's "glad to be back" with the Blue Jays.

"I'm excited to be moving to a new team and (one that's) going in the direction that Toronto is going in," Santos said on a conference call.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ED ZURGA/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Sergio Santos

DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

▶ Cody Franson crashes into New Jersey's Ryan Carter along the boards in Toronto last night.

Leafs bedevilled in OT

Toronto digs out of 2-0 hole, but can't finish off New Jersey in extra frame

David Clarkson scored twice, including the winner at 2:40 of overtime, as the New Jersey Devils defeated the Toronto Maple Leafs 3-2 last night.

Ilya Kovalchuk had the other goal for the Devils (13-12-1), who got 31 saves from Martin Brodeur.

Phil Kessel, with his 17th of the season, and Matt Frattin replied for Toronto (15-10-3).

James Reimer made 23 saves in taking the loss.

Clarkson scored the winner off the rush after taking a feed from Dainius Zubrus in the slot. His quick shot beat Reimer through his pads.

3	2
DEVILS	LEAFS

Kovalchuk and Clarkson scored power-play goals in the first period as New Jersey jumped out to a quick 2-0 lead.

Kovalchuk wired a one-time shot off the post and in past Reimer at 5:03. Clarkson then took advantage of some suspect defensive zone coverage by the Maple Leafs to beat a helpless Reimer at 8:59.

Kessel got the Leafs back in it at 11:29 of the second. Joffrey Lupul threw a puck in front that bounced off Kessel's skate and past Brodeur.

Frattin tied it at 1:56 of the third on a great individual effort. After picking up the puck near the left-wing boards, Frattin held off Adam Larsson before beating Brodeur to his left.

The Leafs had a chance to win late in regulation on the power play as New Jersey's Patrik Elias took an undisciplined slashing penalty with 2:16 left in regulation, but Toronto failed to capitalize as the Devils hung on to force overtime.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

17

Last night's goal put Leafs sniper Phil Kessel back into a first place tie atop the NHL goal-scoring standings with the Blackhawk's Jonathan Toews at 17 apiece.

4 sports

Quoted

"He's not the only guy."

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Raptors' home sked lacks star power

Nash, Durant, Griffin not slated to visit Toronto

Those who might find the truncated Raptors schedule most odorous are those in the team's front office charged with selling tickets to individual games.

The abbreviated 66-game schedule was announced last night and the list of teams not paying a visit to the Air Canada Centre this season is at least as significant as the names of the ones that will.

Steve Nash and the Phoenix Suns? Not on the list.

Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder? Nope.

Blake Griffin and the Los Angeles Clippers? Sorry.

The defending champion Dallas Mavericks? Won't be here.

0
Number of Raptors games that will be broadcast nationally in the United States.

And for a team coming off a 22-60 season, a third straight year without a sniff of the playoffs and firmly in a rebuilding mode, those four virtually certain sellouts will undoubtedly put a crimp in the attendance figures.

Instead of those marquee teams, the only Western Conference teams that will come to the Air Canada Centre in an unbalanced year are the Los Angeles Lakers (for the lone Sunday matinee in the season, Feb. 12), Denver, Houston, Memphis, Golden State, Minnesota, Portland, Sacramento and San Antonio.

As expected, the Raptors will open the season Dec. 26 in Cleveland (that was part of the original 2011-12 season) and open at home on Dec. 28 against the Indiana Pacers.

And then the fun begins.

After a Dec. 30 date in Dallas, the Raptors will play 19 games in January, including an astonishing 12 on the road which includes the only west coast road trip of the season.

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NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Pittsburgh	28	16	8	2	2	86	69	36	8-2-2-0	8-6-0-2	5-4-1-0	L1
d-Boston	25	17	7	0	1	88	52	35	10-5-0-1	7-2-0-0	9-0-0-1	W4
d-Florida	27	15	8	1	3	78	69	34	6-2-1-3	9-6-0-0	6-3-1-0	W2
NY Rangers	24	15	6	1	2	71	55	33	7-2-0-1	8-4-1-1	7-3-0-0	L1
Philadelphia	25	15	7	2	1	90	73	33	6-4-1-1	9-3-1-0	7-3-0-0	W2
Toronto	27	15	10	1	1	87	87	32	6-4-1-1	9-6-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Buffalo	26	14	11	0	1	72	69	29	6-8-0-1	8-3-0-0	4-5-0-1	W1
Ottawa	27	13	11	2	1	83	91	29	7-4-0-1	6-7-2-0	6-2-2-0	W1
Washington	26	13	12	0	1	79	84	27	9-4-0-1	4-8-0-0	3-7-0-0	L1
Montreal	27	11	11	2	3	67	69	27	4-5-2-2	7-6-0-1	3-4-2-1	W1
Winnipeg	26	11	11	3	1	75	82	26	7-4-0-0	4-7-3-1	6-3-1-0	W2
New Jersey	25	12	12	0	1	62	72	25	5-4-0-1	7-8-0-0	4-6-0-0	L4
Tampa Bay	26	11	13	0	2	69	84	24	7-4-0-0	4-9-0-2	3-7-0-0	L4
NY Islanders	24	8	11	3	2	52	78	21	5-6-2-0	3-5-1-2	4-4-1-1	W1
Carolina	28	8	16	2	2	66	94	20	5-9-0-2	3-7-2-0	2-8-0-0	L6

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	27	17	7	2	1	69	60	37	10-4-1-0	7-3-1-1	9-1-0-0	W4
d-Chicago	28	16	8	1	3	93	88	36	8-2-0-3	8-6-1-0	5-4-0-1	L1
d-Dallas	26	15	10	0	1	69	72	31	9-4-0-1	6-6-0-0	4-5-0-1	L1
Detroit	25	16	8	1	0	75	56	33	10-2-1-0	6-6-0-0	7-3-0-0	L1
Vancouver	26	15	10	0	1	83	67	31	7-4-0-1	8-6-0-0	7-3-0-0	W1
St. Louis	26	14	9	0	3	63	58	31	8-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	6-2-0-2	L2
Phoenix	26	14	9	1	2	71	65	31	7-5-1-1	7-4-0-1	5-5-0-0	W1
Los Angeles	26	13	9	2	2	60	58	30	8-7-0-1	5-2-2-1	6-3-1-0	L1
San Jose	23	14	8	1	0	67	56	29	7-5-1-0	7-3-0-0	6-4-0-0	L1
Edmonton	27	13	11	0	3	76	71	29	7-4-0-2	6-7-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Nashville	26	12	10	3	1	68	71	28	4-4-2-1	8-6-1-0	4-5-1-0	L1
Colorado	27	13	13	1	0	75	78	27	7-9-0-0	6-4-1-0	5-5-0-0	W3
Calgary	26	11	13	1	1	60	72	24	5-5-1-1	6-8-0-0	4-5-0-1	L1
Anaheim	26	7	14	2	3	60	87	19	5-9-1-0	2-5-1-3	1-7-1-1	L2
Columbus	26	7	16	0	3	62	88	17	5-7-0-1	2-9-0-2	4-6-0-0	L1

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's results
New Jersey at Toronto
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders
Columbus at Montreal
Detroit at St. Louis
Phoenix at Nashville
Boston at Winnipeg
Carolina at Calgary
Colorado at Vancouver
Los Angeles at Anaheim
Minnesota at San Jose
Monday's results
Toronto 4 N.Y. Rangers 2
Ottawa 4 Tampa Bay 2
Boston 3 Pittsburgh 1
Florida 5 Washington 4
Phoenix 4 Chicago 3 (SO)
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
Washington at Ottawa, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
Carolina at Edmonton, 9:30 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Florida at Boston, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Chicago at N.Y. Islanders, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Nashville at Columbus, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
Phoenix at Detroit, 7:30 p.m.
Anaheim at St. Louis, 8 p.m.
Colorado at Calgary, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Dallas at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.

MONDAY

MAPLE LEAFS 4, RANGERS 2

First Period

1. Toronto, Franson 2 (Liles, Kessel) 6:01

Penalties — Rosehill Tor, Prust NYR (fighting) 2:05, Rosehill Tor (hooking) 11:21, Fedotenko NYR (hooking) 14:16, Callahan NYR (holding) 18:52.

Second Period

2. Toronto, Connolly 4 (Frattin) 5:12
3. Toronto, Lupul 13 (Bozak, Kessel) 6:49 (pp)
4. N.Y. Rangers, Anisimov 4 (Prust, Del Zotto) 13:00
5. N.Y. Rangers, Gaborik 13 (Stepan, Richards) 14:32 (pp)

Penalties — Anisimov NYR (hooking) 6:36, Steckel Tor (interference) 13:20, Bozak Tor (hooking) 14:12.

Third Period

6. Toronto, Steckel 5 (Schenn) 19:55 (en-sh)

Penalties — Bozak Tor (hooking) 10:23, Anisimov NYR (hooking) 17:11, MacArthur Tor (high-sticking) 18:30.

Shots on goal

Toronto	12	10	8	— 30
N.Y. Rangers	8	12	12	— 32

Goal — Toronto: Gustavsson (W,9-5-0); N.Y. Rangers: Lundqvist (L,11-5-3).

Power plays (goals-chances) — Toronto: 1-4; N.Y. Rangers: 1-5.

Attendance — 18,200 (18,200) at New York.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Kessel, Tor	16	18	34
Toews, Chi	17	15	32
Giroux, Pha	15	17	32
Lupul, Tor	13	18	31
D.Sedin, Vcr	9	21	30
P.Kane, Chi	8	22	30
Stamkos, TB	16	13	29
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	12	17	29
Weiss, Fla	11	18	29
Fleischmann, Fla	12	16	28
Versteeg, Fla	12	16	28
Eberle, Edm	10	18	28
Sharp, Chi	13	14	27
Vanek, Buf	12	15	27
Backstrom, Wash	9	18	27
Pominville, Buf	9	18	27
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	19	27
Smyth, Edm	12	14	26
Ma.Hossa, Chi	11	15	26
Neal, Pgh	14	11	25
Seguin, Bos	13	12	25
Franzen, Det	12	13	25
Kopitar, LA	10	15	25
Spezza, Ott	9	16	25
Selanne, Ana	9	16	25
Malkin, Pgh	9	15	24
Datsyuk, Det	8	16	24
Vrbata, Phx	13	10	23
Skinner, Car	11	12	23
B.Richards, NYR	10	13	23
Ra.Whitney, Phx	9	14	23
Benn, Dal	6	17	23
Karlsson, Ott	2	21	23
Campbell, Fla	2	21	23
Michalek, Ott	16	6	22
Gaborik, NYR	13	9	22
Hartnell, Pha	11	11	22
Perry, Ana	11	11	22
Eriksson, Dal	10	12	22
Plekanec, Mtl	6	16	22
E.Kane, Wpg	14	7	21
Elias, NJ	9	12	21
Dupuis, Pgh	8	13	21
St. Louis, TB	8	13	21
Jagr, Pha	8	13	21
C.Smith, Nash	8	13	21
Filppula, Det	8	13	21
Tavares, NYI	8	13	21
O'Reilly, Col	6	15	21
J.Thornton, SJ	5	16	21
Parenteau, NYI	4	17	21
M.Koivu, Minn	4	17	21
M.Bergeron, TB	3	18	21
M.Richards, LA	11	9	20
Pavelski, SJ	11	9	20
Lucic, Bos	10	10	20
Marleau, SJ	10	10	20
Briere, Pha	7	13	20
Horcoff, Edm	7	13	20
Prospal, Clb	6	14	20
Getzlaf, Ana	6	14	20
Moulson, NYI	13	6	19
Couture, SJ	10	9	19
Pacioretty, Mtl	10	9	19
Marchand, Bos	9	10	19
Duchene, Col	9	10	19
Ovechkin, Wash	8	11	19
Nash, Clb	8	11	19
Legwand, Nash	7	12	19
Lidstrom, Det	6	13	19
Bergeron, Bos	5	14	19
Kulikov, Fla	3	16	19
Letang, Pgh	3	16	19
Keith, Chi	2	17	19

Last night's games not included

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	3	0	.750	362	247
N.Y. Jets	7	5	0	.583	290	260
Buffalo	5	7	0	.417	278	304
Miami	4	8	0	.333	246	220

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	9	3	0	.750	310	189
Tennessee	7	5	0	.583	249	229
Jacksonville	3	9	0	.250	152	238
Indianapolis	0	12	0	.000	174	358

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	9	3	0	.750	296	192
Pittsburgh	9	3	0	.750	268	195
Cincinnati	7	5	0	.583	266	250
Cleveland	4	8	0	.333	175	240

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	7	5	0	.583	256	292
Oakland	7	5	0	.583	274	308
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	287	289
Kansas City	5	7	0	.417	163	268

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	7	5	0	.583	283	244
N.Y. Giants	6	6	0	.500	287	315
Philadelphia	4	8	0	.333	271	282
Washington	4	8	0	.333	202	256

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	9	3	0	.750	393	269
Atlanta	7	5	0	.583	269	244
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	290	324
Tampa Bay	4	8	0	.333	218	329

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	12	0	0	1.000	420	262
Detroit	7	5	0	.583	333	277
Chicago	7	5	0	.583	291	242
Minnesota	2	10	0	.167	246	330

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	2	0	.833	288	161
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
Arizona	5	7	0	.417	232	269
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	140	296

y-clinched division

Monday's result
San Diego 38 Jacksonville 14
Tomorrow's game
All times Eastern
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:20 p.m.
Sunday's games
New Orleans at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Baltimore, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Detroit, 1 p.m.
Houston at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Atlanta at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Philadelphia at Miami, 1 p.m.
New England at Washington, 1 p.m.
San Francisco at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
Chicago at Denver, 4:05 p.m.
Buffalo at San Diego, 4:15 p.m.
Oakland at Green Bay, 4:15 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Dallas, 8:20 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 12
St. Louis at Seattle, 8:30 p.m.

SOCCER

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

(Home teams listed first; x — advances)

FIRST ROUND

GROUP A

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Bayern Munich	5	4	1	0	11	4	13
Napoli	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Manchester City	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
Villarreal	5	0	0	5	2	12	0

Today's games
Manchester City (Eng.) vs. Bayern Munich (Ger.)
Villarreal (Spain) vs. Napoli (Italy)

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Inter Milan	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Trabzonspor	5	1	3	1	3	5	6
Lille	5	1	2	2	6	6	5
CSKA Moscow	5	1	2	2	7	7	5

Today's games
Lille (France) vs. Trabzonspor (Turkey)
Inter Milan (Ita.) vs. CSKA Moscow (Rus.)

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Benfica	5	2	3	0	7	4	9
Manchester Un.	5	2	3	0	10	6	9
FC Basel	5	2	2	1	9	9	8
Otelul Galati	5	0	0	5	3	10	0

Today's games
FC Basel (Swi.) vs. Manchester Un. (Eng.)
Benfica (Port.) vs. Otelul Galati (Roman.)

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Real Madrid	5	5	0	0	16	2	15
Ajax	5	2	2	1	6	3	8
Lyon	5	1	2	2	2	6	5
Dinamo Zagreb	5	0	0	5	2	15	0

Today's games
Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia) vs. Lyon (Fra.)
Ajax (Neth.) vs. Real Madrid (Spain)

GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Bayer Leverksn	6	3	1	2	8	8	12
x-Chelsea	6	3	2	1	13	4	11
Valencia	6	2	2	2	12	7	8
Genk	6	0	3	3	2	16	3

Yesterday's results
Chelsea (England) 3 Valencia (Spain) 0
Genk (Belg.) 1 Bayer Leverkusen (Ger.) 1

GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Arsenal	6	3	2	1	7	6	11
x-Marseille	6	3	1	2	7	4	10
Olympiakos	6	3	0	3	8	6	9
Borussia Drtmnd	6	1	1	4	6	12	4

Yesterday's results
Olympiakos (Greece) 3 Arsenal (Eng.) 1
Borussia Dortmund (Ger.) 2 Marseille (Fra.) 3

GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-APOEL	6	2	3	1	6	6	9
Zenit St. Ptrsbrg	6	2	3	1	7	5	9
FC Porto	6	2	2	2	7	7	8
Shakhtar Donetsk	6	1	2	3	6	8	5

Yesterday's results
FC Porto (Por.) 0 Zenit St. Petersburg (Ukr.) 0
APOEL (Cyp.) 0 Shakhtar Donetsk (Rus.) 2

GROUP H

	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
x-Barcelona	6	5	1	0	20	4	16
x-AC Milan	6	2	3	1	11	8	9
Viktoria Plzen	6	1	2	3	4	11	5
BATE Borisov	6	0	2	4	2	14	2

Yesterday's results
Barcelona (Spn.) 4 BATE Borisov (Belar.) 0
Viktoria Plzen (Czech) 2 AC Milan (Italy) 2

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BOSTON RED SOX—Agreed to terms with LHP Andrew Miller on a one-year contract.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Designated RHP Hector Rondon for assignment. Added OF Grady Sizemore to the 40-man roster.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Traded RHP Kevin Slowey to Colorado for a player to be named.
TAMPA BAY RAYS—Agreed to terms with INF Matt Mangini, 1B Juan Miranda, RHP Jhonny Nunez and RHP Ricky Orta on minor league contracts.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Acquired RHP Sergio Santos from the Chicago White Sox for RHP Nestor Molina.

FOOTBALL

CFL

SASKATCHEWAN ROUGHRIDERS—Released LB Barrin Simpson, signed LB Maurice Lloyd.

NFL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Washington TE Fred Davis, Washington T Trent Williams and Seattle G John Moffitt for four games each for violating the league's substance abuse policy.
HOUSTON TEXANS—Released QB Kellen Clemens. Placed P Brett Hartmann on injured reserve.

HOCKEY

NHL

LEAGUE OFFICE—Suspended Nashville F Jordin Tootoo for two games, without pay, for charging Buffalo G Ryan Miller during a Dec. 3 game.
BUFFALO SABRES—Recalled D Joe Finley from Rochester (AHL).
CAROLINA HURRICANES—Recalled G Mike Murphy from Charlotte (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES—Assigned F Patrick O'Sullivan to Portland (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Recalled D Evan Oberg from Norfolk (AHL).
WINNIPEG JETS—Claimed F Ben Maxwell off waivers from Anaheim and assigned him to St. John's (AHL). Activated D Brett Festerling from the injured reserve list and assigned him to St. John's.

AHL

SAN ANTONIO RAMPAGE—Announced Florida (NHL) assigned G Jacob Markstrom to the team. Assigned F Jonathan Hazen to Cincinnati (ECHL).

SOCCER

MLS

CHICAGO FIRE—Agreed to terms with MF Logan Pause on a two-year contract extension through 2013.
CHIVAS USA—Re-signed G Dan Kennedy to a multiyear contract.
COLORADO RAPIDS—Announced the resignation of managing director Jeff Plush.
VANCOUVER WHITECAPS—Agreed to terms with MF Young-Pyo Lee.

SIRIUS SATELLITE RADIO

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7.9L/100 KM HWY*

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Engine

The base 328i sedan's previous 230-horsepower inline six-cylinder has been replaced by a 240-horsepower 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder.

The powerplant, which is also showing up in other BMW products, including the larger 5 Series and Z4 roadster, makes 260 pound-feet of torque and can propel the 3 Series sedan to 100 km/h in about six seconds, which is just a touch longer than the 335i's time. That model retains its 300-horsepower six-cylinder turbocharged engine.

Dynamics Control

Standard on all models is a Driving Dynamics Control with four different settings, according to how vigorously you wish to pilot your Bimmer. The most fuel-efficient setting is the ECO PRO mode that, when activated, cuts the horsepower to save fuel (as much as 20 per cent, according to BMW). In ECO PRO, a special instrument-panel display indicates how far the 3's range has been extended.

Fuel efficiency

An electric air conditioning compressor functions on a demand-only basis and a new feature shuts off the engine when you're stopped at intersections, red lights and other gridlock-related pauses, then instantly fires it up again when it's time to roll.

To offset the added power needs, the 3 Series features Brake Energy Regeneration. This system converts the kinetic energy produced when coasting or braking into electrical energy, which is then fed to the battery.

▶ Trust BMW to find a way to deal with restrictions while still providing a better car. But can the 3 Series please everyone?

BMW's franchise player hopes to remain a leader

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA
WHEELBASE MEDIA

Arriving in early 2012, the car that's literally "The Franchise" for BMW seems headed in an entirely new direction.

If nothing else, the 3 Series has kept up with the times, which call for significant improvements in fuel economy as well as a tread-lightly footprint that reaffirms and enhances BMW's environmental awareness.

At the same time, BMW must maintain the passion and performance that has helped its star performer maintain its top-rung status.

The 2012 3 Series walks the walk in fine style.

The sleeker-looking sedan is nearly nine centimetres longer and about five centimetres wider overall.

The changes to the car's basic shape mean a low-slung appearance, especially the front end that's more aerodynamic than the 2011 version.

But important for those who appreciate unrestricted views of the passing scenery, the 3 Series maintains its sensible low-waist, tall-window design along with thin roof and door pillars.

In an ever-changing environment — business and otherwise — the BMW 3 Series has adapted while still giving drivers precisely what they expect: a car that keeps up with times and continues as a technology, performance and fashion leader.

5 drive

By comparison

Mercedes-Benz C-Class
Base price: $38,000
Classy sedan offers something for everyone in content and performance.

Audi A4
Base price: $39,300
Competent sedan with a neatly styled interior. Base turbo I4 runs strong.

Cadillac CTS
Base price: $38,500
Sharp looks and comfy cabin keeps buyers happy. CTS-V a very quick ride.
WHEELBASE MEDIA

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Vehicle(s) may be shown with optional equipment. Dealer may sell or lease for less. Limited time offers. Offers may be cancelled at any time without notice. See your Ford Dealer for complete details or call the Ford Customer Relationship Centre at 1-800-565-3673. ** Purchase or lease any new 2011/2012 Ford Fiesta, Focus, Fusion, Escape, Edge (excluding Sport) or Explorer on or before Jan. 3/12 and receive the choice of (i) a winter safety package which includes: four (4) Winter Tires, four (4) steel Rims (Escape receives alloy wheels), and four (4) Tire pressure monitoring sensor; OR (ii) $750 in customer cash, but not both. Customers electing to receive customer cash may apply the amount toward their purchase or lease (taxes calculated after customer cash amount is applied) or receive a cheque for the amount from Ford Motor Company of Canada. This offer is not applicable to any Fleet (other than small fleets with an eligible FIN) or Government customers and not combinable with CPA, GPC, CPP or Daily Rental Allowances. Some conditions apply. See Dealer for details. Vehicle handling characteristics, tire load index and speed rating may not be the same as factory supplied all season tires. Winter tires are meant to be operated during winter conditions and may require a higher cold inflation pressure than all season tires. Consult your Ford of Canada dealer for details including applicable warranty coverage. *Purchase a new 2012 Escape XLT I4 Manual for $20,879 after Total Manufacturer Rebate of $0 deducted. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price after Manufacturer Rebate has been deducted. Offers include freight, air tax, PPSA and Stewardship Ontario Environmental Fee but exclude administration and registration fees of up to $799, fuel fill charge of up to $120 and all applicable taxes. All prices are based on Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price. Delivery Allowances can be used in conjunction with most retail consumer offers made available by Ford of Canada at either the time of factory order or delivery, but not both. Delivery Allowances are not combinable with any fleet consumer incentives. ^^Estimated fuel consumption ratings for the 2012 [Escape 2.5L- I4 5 speed manual]: [9.1L/100 km city and 7.1L/100 km hwy]. Fuel consumption ratings based on Transport Canada-approved test methods. Actual fuel consumption will vary based on road conditions, vehicle loading and driving habits.

Outback looks like a sensible used CUV

SECOND GEAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

The Outback is Subaru's shot at vehicles like the Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4 and Ford Escape.

With its update for 2010, the 2005 to 2009 generation of this popular crossover is now a full member of the used marketplace.

A car-like and wagon-oriented vehicle, it offered up the utility of a station wagon, the ground-clearance of a small SUV and the driving dynamics of a sedan.

2005 to 2009 Subaru Outback

Engines

Outback was standard with a 2.5-litre boxer four-cylinder or turbocharged version thereof, with 170 or 250 horsepower, respectively. A three-litre flat-six with 250 horsepower was also available. All-wheel drive was standard on all models.

What owners like

Outback drivers say they enjoy good fuel economy, steady and sure-footed traction in all conditions, a high-utility cabin and good ride quality. Headroom and outward visibility are also highly rated.

What owners dislike

Complaints deal with sluggish performance on four-cylinder, automatic-equipped models, as well as a tight rear seat, a "cheap" interior feel, and soft handling.

Common issues

If applicable, have the turbocharger system checked for signs of wear, ensuring the vehicle doesn't smoke and hasn't got excessive oil deposits in the charge piping — which could reference worn-out turbo seals. A Subaru mechanic can help here. On any Outback model, check the differentials and transaxle assembly for signs of oily leakage. A check-engine light, possibly accompanied by improperly functioning cruise control, could be caused by a bad engine control sensor.

Verdict

Outback appears to be a largely reliable and well-enjoyed vehicle for families, active couples and busy single folks alike. A well-maintained model should provide reliable, year-round performance.

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▲Ratings of "Good" are the highest rating awarded for 40-mph frontal offset, 31-mph side-impact and 20-mph rear-impact crash tests conducted by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS) (www.iihs.org). A "Good" rating obtained in all three crash tests plus a "Good" rating in new roof strength testing and the availability of Electronic Stability Control (ESC) (Vehicle Dynamics Control) achieves a 2011 Top Safety Pick. *Based on ALG's 2011 Residual Value Award for Best Mainstream Brand. †When you purchase, lease or finance a new 2012/2011 Forester, you will receive a $500 holiday bonus which can be applied towards options, accessories, down payment or monthly payments on an eligible 2012/2011 Forester at the time of purchase, lease or finance. Credits are inclusive of applicable taxes and will be applied, as applicable, to relevant monthly lease or finance payment or purchase price at dealership. Offer applies to vehicles delivered on or before January 4, 2012. All current stackable consumer cash incentives have been applied to the lease offers, dealer contribution may be required. *MSRP of $25,995 on 2012 Forester 2.5X (CJ1 XJ). Lease for $298 a month for 24 months with $2,495 down. 2.9% lease rate. $3,158.34 due at signing. Option to purchase at end of lease is $18,795. Advertised pricing consists of MSRP plus charges for Freight/PDI ($1,595), Air Tax ($100), Tire Stewardship Levy ($29.20), OMVIC Fee ($5), Dealer Admin ($199). Freight/PDI charge includes a full tank of gas. Taxes, licence, registration and insurance are extra. $0 security deposit. Model shown: 2011 Forester 2.5X Convenience Package (BJ2 CP). MSRP of $28,095. Dealers may sell or lease for less or may have to order or trade. Offers applicable on approved credit at participating dealers only. Lease based on a maximum of 24,000 km per year, with excess charged at $0.10/km. Leasing and financing programs available through Subaru Financial Services by TCCI. Other lease and finance rates and terms available; down payment or equivalent trade-in may be required. Vehicle shown solely for purposes of illustration, and may not be equipped exactly as shown. Offers available until January 4, 2012. See your local Subaru dealer for complete program details.

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∞EXCEPT CIVIC HYBRID

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*Includes Freight, PDI, Levies, and OMVIC fee. Excludes License and HST. *Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) on a 48 // 48 month term at 1.99% // 0.9% lease APR, the monthly payment is $177.98 // $297.95 [includes $1,395 // $1,590 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $2,240 // $2,550 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 // $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $8,543.04 // $14,301.60. 96,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. **Receive 1.99% // 0.9% purchase financing on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) for a maximum of 60 // 60 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Bi-weekly Finance example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) // 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) on a 60 // 60 month term at 1.99% // 0.9% APR, 130 bi-weekly payments of $153.83 // $197.99, and complete price of $19,020 // $28,015 [includes $1,395 // $1,590 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5). Excludes other taxes, license and insurance]. $0 // $2,856 down payment or equivalent trade-in based on approved credit from Honda Financial Services Inc. Cost of borrowing is $977.40 // $579.80 for a total finance obligation of $19,997.40 // $28,594.80. †Limited time lease offer on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid), through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $309.58 [includes $1,395 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)] with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $7,429.92. 48,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. ‡Receive 0.99% purchase financing on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid) for a maximum of 24 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99% APR and complete price of $19,020 [includes $1,395 freight and PDI, EHF tires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5). Excludes other taxes, license, and insurance], the monthly payment is $800.70. Cost of borrowing is $196.80 for a total finance obligation of $19,216.80. Down payment or equivalent trade-in on purchase financing offers may be required based on approved credit from Honda Financial Services Inc. §$1,000 Holiday Bonus offer applies only to retail customer purchase, lease or finance agreements for new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan and Coupe models (except Civic Hybrid) concluded between December 1, 2011 and December 31, 2011 at participating Ontario Honda Dealers. $1,000 Holiday Bonus is deducted after taxes. For all offers: license, insurance, PPSA, and other taxes (including HST and tax for fuel conservation, if applicable) are extra. Taxes payable on full amount of purchase price. Offers only valid for Ontario residents at Ontario Honda Dealers. Dealer may sell/lease for less. Dealer order/trade may be necessary. Vehicles and accessories are for illustration purposes only. Offers subject to change without notice. See your Ontario Honda Dealer or visit HondaOntario.com for full details.

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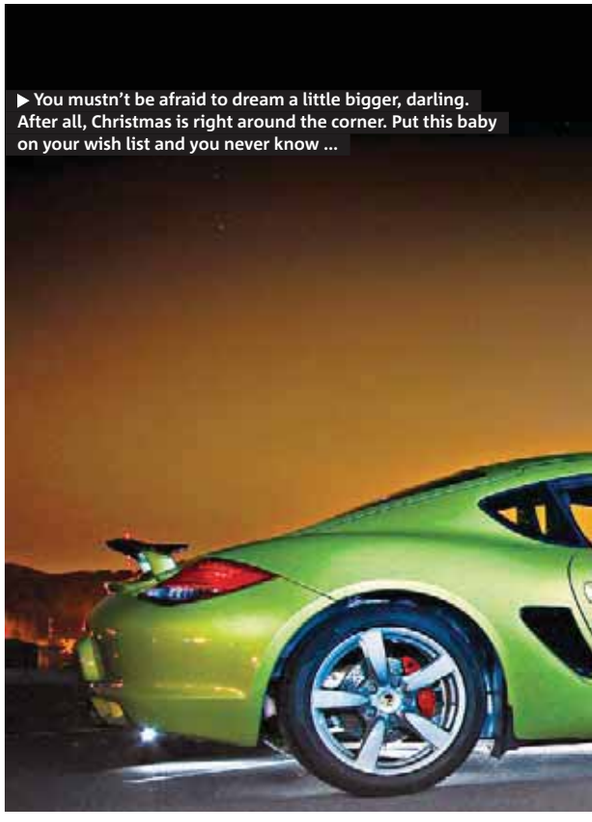
Stronger

The Cayman R is a hardcore performance toy


▶ You mustn't be afraid to dream a little bigger, darling. After all, Christmas is right around the corner. Put this baby on your wish list and you never know ...

DREAM CAR

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

Increasing a vehicle's power-to-weight ratio is a great way to make it faster. Any fat kid that's ever been go-karting with his skinny friends can tell you why.

When you give an amount of horsepower less weight to move, things get better — and the Porsche Cayman R is proof on wheels. A track-ready, lightweight variant of the Porsche Cayman S, the Cayman R has been subjected to numerous weight-saving modifications to enhance its performance and efficiency.

It might look like the love child of Kermit the Frog and a Hot Wheels toy, but underneath the tester's violently green paint, engineers used lightweight doors, wheels and even a lightweight battery to trim things down.

Add in the special graphics package and hopelessly sexy body, and you've got a machine that gathers crowds wherever it goes.

You get a sense of the Cayman R's lightweight, stripped-down ideology inside, too. There are no frills or techy gadgets.

Grippy, rigid carbon fibre racing seats are minimalist, and perhaps the best signal that drivers are boarding something serious every time they finagle their way into them. The red seatbelts and red fabric tug straps, which replace the door handles, add to the hardcore factor.

Cayman R is comfortably snug and not big on at-hand storage. You literally wear it.

Thankfully, there are trunks both up front and in the rear.

The engine sits in the middle, just behind the seats. It's a specially-tuned 3.4-litre flat six, modified slightly for Cayman R duty with 330 horsepower and a 7,600 RPM redline.

It's a typical screaming, non-turbocharged Porsche boxer mill that performs best when wound out, and of course, it makes sound effects that'll make you happy to have ears.

A six-speed manual is standard, though the tester got the optional 7-speed PDK Dual Clutch transmission. Drivers can summon lightning-fast gear changes with the steering-wheel mounted shift paddles, or leave it in "DRIVE" for operation like a normal automatic.

On the track, the Cayman R dances around corners with a planted and sticky rear end, a light, eager and lively front end, and instant, razor-sharp steering. Nothing with an engine between its front wheels steers like this.

It all feels forgiving, athletic and wildly fun regardless of your skill level.

The instant gear changes, heaps of cornering grip and massive brakes all add to the experience. Ditto the engine sounds.

Cayman R

- **Drivetrain:** Mid-engine, rear-wheel drive.
- **Engine (hp):** 3.4L DOHC flat six, 330 horsepower.
- **Transmission:** Seven-speed PDK dual-clutch with shift paddles.
- **Price as Tested:** $86,000.

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*Model shown 2012 Chevrolet Equinox LTZ, MSRP with freight, PDI & levies $35,729. Dealers are free to set individual prices. ‡1.75% purchase financing offered by GMCL for 60 months on 2012 Chevrolet Equinox LS FWD R7A. O.A.C by Ally. Rates from other lenders will vary. Example: $10,000 at 1.75%APR, monthly payment is $174.19 for 60 months. Cost of borrowing is $451.40, total obligation is $10,451.40. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly/Bi-weekly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Bi-weekly payments based on a purchase price of $26,495 with $2,850 down payment. Freight & PDI $1,495, registration, air and tire levies, OMVIC fees and minimum $1,000 connect and win base award included. Insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included. Offers apply as indicated to 2012 new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GMCL may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ♦♦No purchase necessary. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's license who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence. Contest runs from November 1, 2011 to January 16, 2012. Credit Awards include applicable taxes and can only be applied to the purchase or lease of a new 2011 or 2012 MY GM vehicle delivered from dealer stock, excluding Chevrolet Volt, on or before January 16, 2012. 20 Vehicle Awards consist of either a 2012 GMC Terrain SLE2 FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels, Chrome Appearance Package and Rear Cargo Security Cover or a 2012 Chevrolet Equinox 2LT FWD + 18" Machined Aluminum Wheels. Factory order may be required for Vehicle Awards. Approximate retail value of each Vehicle Award is Equinox/Terrain $30,248 MSRP/$29,818 MSRP CDN, including freight. Not all awards have the same odds of winning. Correct answer to skill testing question required to claim an award. Some examples of odds are: to receive a $1,000 base award, 1 in 1; to receive a total award of $1,200, 1 in 30; to receive a total award of $10,000, 1 in 10,000; to receive a Vehicle Award, 1 in 20,000 (total awards and vehicle awards include the $1,000 base award). See your GM dealer, visit gm.ca or call 1-800-GM-DRIVE for full contest rules.

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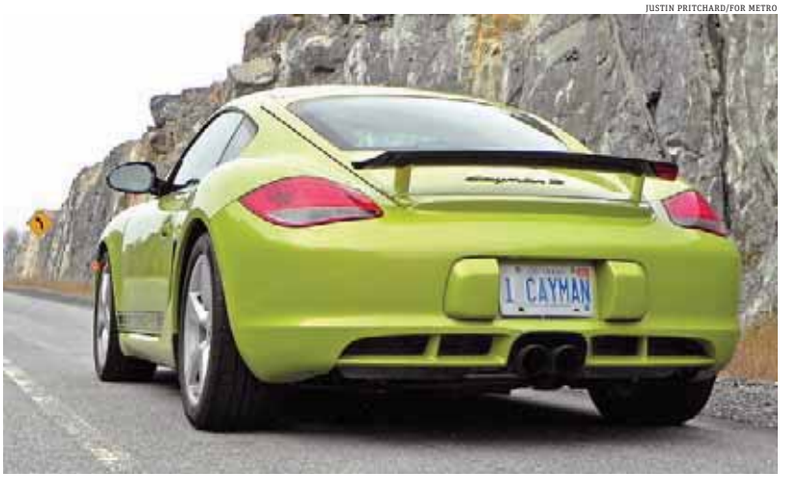

Paying for performance driving paradise

As with all Porsches, you're paying a premium for all of the track-ready engineering. The modestly-equipped tester came in around $86,000, and since it's got an often-harsh ride, rock-solid seats and limited creature comforts, it's not something you'd probably drive every day.

More of a toy, really.

Of course, as an all-access pass to performance driving paradise, it works exceptionally.

Complaints? Keeping context in mind, there are few. Visibility is a bit limited and the cupholders are flimsy.

And bigger folks will wish for easier entry and exit.

Those willing to pay a premium for a world-class performance car engineered for dynamics first and comfort second, will be impressed.

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Outlander model shown‡

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RVR GT model shown‡

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Lancer SE model shown‡

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Offer(s) available on all new 2011/2012 models purchased through participating dealers to qualified retail customers who purchase a new vehicle by January 3, 2012. Dealers may sell for less, some conditions apply. Offers are subject to change without notice, see dealer for complete details. ‡ 2011 Lancer SE/2011 RVR GT/2011 Outlander XLS models shown have an MSRP of $19,398/$28,498/$34,498 and selling price of $##,###/$##,###/$##,###. (QUE): Taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and duty on new tires are excluded. (Rest of Canada): Includes destination, delivery and fees. Taxes, PPSA and dealer fees of up to $599 are excluded. § S-AWC available on Outlander XLS and Lancer Evolution. † Combined City/Highway ratings for non-hybrid compact SUVs based on Energuide. ◊ 0% purchase financing available through Bank of Montreal for up to 72 months on all new 2011 Outlander models, up to 60 months on all new 2011 RVR models and most new 2011 Lancer models, and up to 84 months on all new 2011 Endeavor models (terms vary by model, see dealer for details). 2011 Lancer DE (CL41A C01) financed at 0% over 60 months. Monthly payments equal $###, with a down payment of $0, a cost of borrowing of $0 and a total obligation of $###,###. (QUE): Excludes taxes, registration, insurance, licensing and duty on new tires. (Rest of Canada): Excludes up to $1,450 in freight, $250 in PDI, $100 in air tax, up to $30 in EHF, $15 duty on new tires, taxes, PPSA, registration, insurance, licensing, administration, up to $599 in other dealer fees, and any additional government fees. * Best backed claim does not cover Lancer Evolution and Ralliart models. ® MITSUBISHI MOTORS, BEST BACKED CARS IN THE WORLD are trade-marks of Mitsubishi Motors North America, Inc. and are used under license. ** Whichever comes first. Regular maintenance not included. See dealer or mitsubishi-motors.ca for warranty terms, restrictions and details. Not all customers will qualify.

MITSUBISHI MOTORS Drive@earth

CONTRIBUTED

▶ The Norton Commando 961 Cafe Racer is one of the bikes you should check out at a Motorcycle show this winter.

Kicking off Canada's motorcycle show season

AUTO PILOT

MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONEWS.CA

What can you do if you're a motorcycle enthusiast, but the weather's colder and bleaker than the heart of a Wall Street CEO? Head to a motorcycle show.

Curiously, you can also head to a motorcycle show, if you're a beef jerky enthusiast. I don't know why beef jerky vendors always set up at the edges of any motorcycle show floor, but they do, and God bless them and their dedication to the meat arts.

This winter's motorcycle/jerky show season starts this weekend in Toronto. The action will take place in the South Building of the Metro Convention Centre, from Friday, Dec. 9 to Sunday, Dec. 11.

This is the show run by the manufacturers, via its Motorcycle and Moped Industry Council (MMIC). After Toronto, the MMIC show makes stops in Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, Quebec, Moncton and Montreal.

Avid motorcycle types know that Toronto hosts two major motorcycle shows.

The other one happens after the New Year, bills itself as the Supershow, and takes over the International Centre by the airport. No sense arguing over which one rules, let's just revel in the fact that we have two high quality cyclefests to check out when it's too chilly to ride.

Topping the list of bikes I want to check out at this weekend's show is Norton's addition to their Commando 961 line up — the Cafe Racer. Not quite as pretty as the original, but pretty darn close.

Retro is big business these days, but especially in the motorcycle industry, where the average buyer is in their mid-forties!

Where are the younger riders?

I put that question to Neil Graham, editor of Cycle Canada. While he is not sure where they are, or how big a group they currently comprise in the marketplace, he is "encouraged" at least by the industry's efforts to reach out to them. He cites all the new small, entry-level bikes currently in the marketplace. Bikes like Honda's CBR125R and CBR250R, Kawasaki's Ninja 250R and Ninja 400R, and the just released Suzuki TU250.

The MV Augusta F3 675 is set to make its first Canadian appearance this weekend in Toronto.

Women buyers are also still scarce on the ground. But Graham believes the number, however small, is at least trending up. No surprise then that the MMIC show in Toronto is "young rider" and "female rider" friendly.

She Rides Night (on Friday evening) will be a celebration of women who ride or who are considering taking up the sport.

And the Yamaha Riding Academy will be on site, to give 6-12 year olds a spin on a Yamaha TT-R off-road motorcycle, and to teach the older-folk (16 and up) how to ride a scooter. (Yamaha will also give away a motorcycle or ATV to the lucky winner of a show floor draw.) But rest assured there are plenty of testosterone-friendly events and bikes too.

Harley-Davidson will role out its heavy metal thunder, and also present an autograph session with UFC fighters Jake Shields and Brendan Schaub, and "Octagon Girl" Brittney Palmer. BMW will show off the S1000RR superbike and its new line of super scooters — the C600 Sport, and the C650T.

Sked

MMIC Motorcycle Show Schedule

- **Toronto** Dec. 9-11, 2011, Metro Toronto Convention Centre.
- **Calgary** Jan. 6-8, 2012, BMO Centre Stampede Park.
- **Edmonton** Jan. 13-15, Expo Centre, Northlands.
- **Vancouver** Jan. 19-22, Tradex Exhibition Centre, Abbotsford.
- **Quebec City** Feb. 3-5, Centre de foires de Quebec (site ExpoCite).
- **Moncton** Feb 10-12, Moncton Coliseum Complex.
- **Montreal** Feb 24-26, Palais des congres de Montreal.

Honda will bring its new NC700 parallel twin, and the beautiful MV Augusta F3 675 will make its first Canadian appearance at the show.

Those are just a few of the cool bikes that make the show scene this weekend. According to MMIC there will be over 140 exhibitors. So surely something for everybody then, whatever your budget, desires, or meat eating tendencies.

Top Gear

PHOTOS BY WHEELBASE

Just about everyone who has had a trailer hitch installed on their vehicle has likely screamed in agony at least once after striking their shin or kneecap on the ball/receiver.

A simple remedy involves the installation of the Shin Shield.

This protective device is made from a special polymer compound that the manufacturer claims will remain soft all the way down to –40 C.

Shin Shield securely installs between the ball and most standard 2.5-inch (Class 5) receivers that are rated for up to 17,500 pounds (7,950 kilograms) of gross trailer weight and 1,700 pounds (800 kilograms) of tongue weight.

Other sizes are apparently under development).

Order one for $25 US from shin-shield.com.

Adding engine oil or changing it can save you time and money since no appointment is necessary in your home shop.

The reason many people don't is because it can be a messy business where the car, you and the driveway end up covered in oil. The Form-A-Funnel is a highly-flexible product made of thin lead that's encased in mouldable rubber so it can be formed into whatever shape you need for directing used oil from your car's filter into a catch basin or when pouring a fresh quart into the crankcase. When finished, you just roll up the Form-A-Funnel until the next time it's needed. Purchase one for about $30 US from the links listed on the manufacturer's website, formafunnel.com.

WHEELBASE

*Toyota Financial Services will match the customer's down payment and/or trade equity on 2011 tC/xB/xD models up to $1500/$2000/$2000, when customer leases through TFS, on approved credit. TFS matched contribution will be applied as a non-cash credit to the amount being leased. The customer must provide their own down payment and/or trade equity. Offers valid on retail delivery of new unregistered qualifying models when leased, registered and delivered between December 1, 2011 and January 2, 2012. Limited time lease offer provided through Toyota Financial Services on approved credit, based on a new unregistered 2011 Scion tC/xB/xD when retail leased, registered and delivered between Dec 1, 2011 and Jan 2, 2012. 1.9 % lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $234/172/169 with $3000/4000/4000 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $1,390 freight and PDI, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $14245/ 12270/12130. 20,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.07/km for excess kilometres. Monthly payment examples based on manual transmission. Taxes, license, insurance, registration and applicable duties/fees are extra. Dealer may lease for less. Offer is subject to change without notice. See your participating Scion Dealer for details. Vehicles shown with optional accessories. MSRPs do not include freight and PDI ($1,390), license, insurance, registration, applicable taxes, levies and fees. Dealer may sell for less.

Adding the options that customers want

Fast-developing electronics can be tricky for automakers

DRIVING FORCE

JIL McINTOSH
DRIVE@METRONEWS.CA

At one time, features like air conditioning, power windows and keyless entry were expensive options on vehicles. Today they're standard on most, and automakers are now offering such items as rain-sensing wipers, DVD players and ventilated seats as add-ons.

"Everything is focused on what the customers want, and a huge amount of research is done to determine what equipment customers expect and what they're prepared to pay for it," says Jerry Chenkin, executive vice-president of Honda Canada.

"We price out vehicles accordingly, and if the value is not seen by the customers, they'll vote with their chequebooks."

A problem for automakers is the "wow factor," Chenkin says. A feature impresses buyers when it first comes out, but the wow factor disappears very quickly, he says, citing navigation systems and voice-activated systems as the last "huge wow" that existed.

"We're now at the point where people are almost expecting that in the higher trim levels. People are used to the speed with which technology is being developed, so nothing is wow for very long.

"As an auto manufacturer, you keep innovating, because one of the opportunities to distinguish yourself from other manufacturers is those kinds of value-added items in the vehicle. But the advantage is very short-lived because everybody starts to introduce the same kind of items very quickly."

Honda is constantly looking at consumer research and adding or deleting items as customers' tastes change.

The biggest surprise was leather upholstery in upscale models, Chenkin says.

"The demand for leather far exceeded anyone's expectations. In our Acura line-up we launched the Legend in both cloth and leather, and we found out very quickly that people don't want cloth if they're driving a luxury vehicle."

Electronics are among the biggest headaches. It takes five to six years to design a new car model, while electronics advance about every five to six months.

"Electronics are actually speeding up obsolescence, and I'm not sure how people are going to keep up," Chenkin says.

"I think we're past CDs now. A USB port and the technology that plugs into it, that's the kind of flexibility the industry will need."

Offer(s) available on all new 2011 and 2012 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by January 3, 2012. Dealers may sell for less. Some conditions apply. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers are subject to change and may be extended without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes. ΩModel shown includes optional accessories and may not appear exactly as shown. **0% purchase financing is available on all 2011 and 2012 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Terms vary by model and trim, see dealer for details. † "Don't Pay until Spring" on select models (90-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on select 2011 and 2012 models on approved credit (OAC) (Sorento excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 60 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal-interest monthly over the term of the contract. ‡Every eligible contestant automatically wins a prize of $500 up to $10,000 towards the purchase or lease of any new 2011 or 2012 Kia vehicle, plus one lucky winner will be randomly selected to win $25,000 at the conclusion of the contest. Contest ends January 3, 2012. No purchase necessary to enter. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's licence, who have reached the age of majority in the province of their residence. Odds of winning vary per prize. Potential prize recipients must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Other restrictions apply, please see your participating Kia dealer for complete contest rules. Payments include $500 winter fest. Both vehicles are factory demos and have km's on them. The cash purchase price cannot be combined with other factory incentives.The 1.49% is based on o.a.c. Prices quoted as cash purchase price includes CONQUEST BONUS $500, The cash rebate includes $2500 rebate for Forte sedan and $3000 for the Forte Koup.

Includes Freight, PDI, Levies, and OMVIC fee. Excludes License and HST. *Limited time lease offers on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) / / 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) / / 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) on a 48 / / 48 month term at 1.99% // 0.9% lease APR, the monthly payment is $177.98 / / $297.95 (includes $1,395 / / $1,580 freight and PDI, EHF fires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 / / $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $8,543.04 / / $14,301.60. 36,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. ^Receive 1.99% // 0.9% purchase financing on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) / / 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) for a maximum of 60 / / 60 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Bi-weekly Finance example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) / / 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) for a maximum of 60 / / 60 months at 1.99% // 0.9% purchase financing on a new 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) / / 2011 Honda CR-V LX 2WD (Model RE3H3BEY) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 / / $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $7,429.92 / / $28,594.80. Finance offer is $19,997.40 / / $28,594.80. ‡Limited time lease offer on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid), through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Representative lease example: 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99% lease APR, the monthly payment is $386.58 (includes $1,395 freight and PDI, EHF fires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $7,429.92. 48,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. #Receive 0.99% purchase financing on any new 2012 Honda Civic Sedan or Civic Coupe (except Civic Hybrid) for a maximum of 24 months available through Honda Financial Services Inc., on approved credit. Example: based on a 2012 Honda Civic LX Sedan with Manual Transmission (Model FB2E4CEX) on a 24 month term at 0.99% APR and completed price of $19,020 (includes $1,395 freight and PDI, EHF fires ($29), EHF filters ($1), A/C tax ($100), and OMVIC fee ($5)) with $0 down payment or equivalent trade-in, $0 security deposit and first monthly payment due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $19,997.40. 48,000-kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. ΩModel shown includes optional accessories and may not appear exactly as shown. Offers subject to change without notice. See Centre Honda or visit CentreHonda.com for full details.

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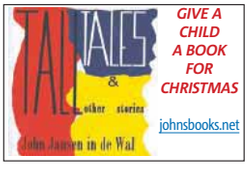

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MICHAEL

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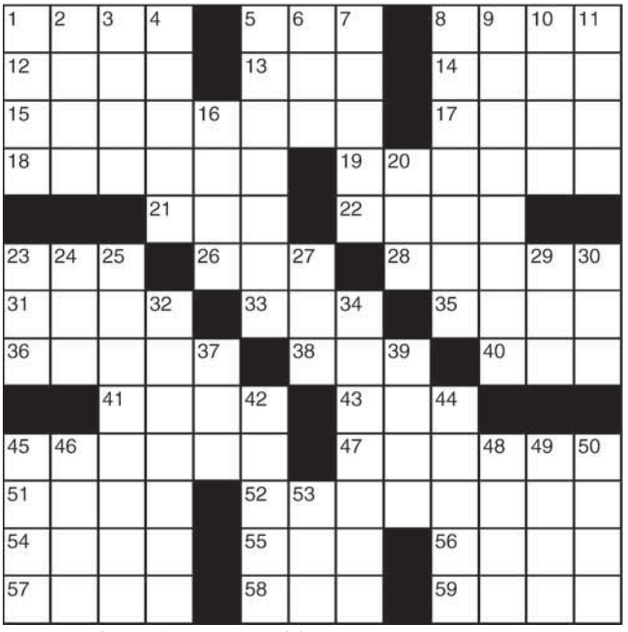
Crossword



Across

1 Houston acronym
5 Sternward
8 Streetcar
12 Winged
13 — goo gai pan
14 Like a moray
15 End of an illness
17 Performances
18 Sycophants
19 Implant
21 Help
22 Entrance
23 Melody
26 Allow
28 Wild West show
31 "Star —"
33 Flop
35 Ginormous
36 Unspoken
38 Wager
40 Decay
41 Rhyming tributes
43 Airport overseer (Abbr.)
45 Move up and down
47 Busy
51 Gumbo need
52 Flinched
54 Nasty stinger
55 Cistern
56 Journalist Lisa
57 Caustic chemicals
58 Acapulco gold
59 London gallery name

Down

1 — a soul (nobody)
2 Sheltered
3 Pouches
4 Scent
5 Rewrote the Constitution
6 Supportive of
7 Monkeyed (with)
8 Quaint restaurant
9 Flute's cousin
10 Sax range
11 1990s video game
16 Bride's cover
20 Neither partner
23 Lawyer (Abbr.)
24 Playwright Levin
25 Source of help
27 Bathroom fixture
29 Id counterpart
30 Morsel for Dobbin
32 Abducts
34 Actually
37 Sleuth, for short
39 Mexican entree
42 Electronic control system, briefly
44 At an angle
45 Cheek by —
46 Fine
48 Hip bones
49 Outlet
50 Advantage
53 Listener

▶ Yesterday's answer

L	A	M	E		P	L	Y		W	A	L	K
E	V	I	L		L	I	E		I	R	O	N
W	I	L	L	I	A	M	S		L	E	G	O
D	D	T		D	I	E		B	L	A	S	T
			W	E	T		P	O	I			
E	L	V	I	S		Q	U	O	N	D	A	M
M	O	I	L		K	E	G		G	A	Z	E
S	T	A	L	K	E	D		E	L	B	O	W
			P	A	Y		H	A	Y			
A	A	R	O	N		N	O	R		S	H	E
B	L	O	W		W	I	L	L	I	W	A	W
E	A	S	E		A	C	E		F	I	R	E
T	E	A	R		S	K	Y		A	M	P	S

Sudoku

			5	4		8	2	9
				8			1	7
		5				6		
6			2				8	
		1				3		
	9				3			6
		7				4		
4	8			1				
3	6	9		7	2			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

5	6	2	3	7	1	9	4	8
9	7	8	4	5	2	3	6	1
1	4	3	9	8	6	7	5	2
3	1	7	6	2	9	4	8	5
2	5	6	8	4	7	1	3	9
8	9	4	1	3	5	6	2	7
7	2	1	5	6	4	8	9	3
4	3	5	7	9	8	2	1	6
6	8	9	2	1	3	5	7	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Haileywailey, you are the most epic person i know. I don't even know what to say, so all i can say is, i love you. From the day u stole my meesh til now. I hope you see this and know how special you are. :)
YOUR ONE AND ONLY

Peaches, Missing you so very much. Not even sure if you read these...wish I could turn back the clock & make different choices. Sorry to have caused you pain. Please find it in your heart to call, even if to say how much you hate me. God, I miss you. **ME**

To my friends: You guys mean so much to me. You've helped me through a lot. We have our ups and downs but our friendship is still going strong. You have my back and if you need it you know i have yours.
YOU KNOW WHO

Today 3°/-2° Partly cloudy
Thursday 1°/-4° Variable
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Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Your critics can complain all they want, but there's no stopping you from following your dream.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 If you stop worrying for a moment and analyze your financial situation, you'll realize it could be worse.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 A partner will say something that'll show you there's a lot about him or her you still don't understand.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Spread the load today — get others to help you. They will, if you ask them nicely.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You don't lack confidence but common sense is just as important, so think carefully before you take a big risk.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 Minor disagreements could easily get out of hand over the next 24 hours. Don't rise to the bait.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You may be tempted to blame someone else when something goes wrong today. Instead, admit it's your fault.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 Watch out that you don't waste money on trendy things you don't need today. Set your own trends.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Your energy levels are high. What is your number one desire? Aim for that and nothing else.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 If you're fearful, it won't be until the Sun moves into your sign in a fortnight that you'll feel better.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 You'll have to be blunt with people who are unaware that you don't want to be bothered with trivia.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. Whatever the upset or upheaval today, take it in stride. Don't let it faze you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Caption contest

MERGED

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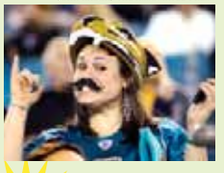

WIN!

You write it!

Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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SALE ENDS JAN. 3RD

0% FINANCING AVAILABLE ON ALL 2012'S**

PAY UNTIL SPRING* ON SELECT MODELS

2012 FORTE SEDAN

Forte SX shown

HWY: 5.7L/100KM
CITY: 8.1L/100KM

SAVE WITH FLEX CHOICE

NEW! LOWER PRICE FROM

$99†† AT 3.39% APR

bi-weekly for 60 months. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,489.

BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $17,484.

$0 DOWN PAYMENT

WITH OPTION TO RETURN AFTER 60 MONTHS††

2012 SOUL

Soul 4u Luxury shown

HWY: 5.6L/100KM
CITY: 7.4L/100KM

SAVE WITH FLEX CHOICE

OWN IT FROM

$115†† AT 1.49% APR

bi-weekly for 48 months. Offer includes delivery, destination and fees of $1,684.

BASED ON A PURCHASE PRICE OF $18,279.

$0 DOWN PAYMENT

WITH OPTION TO RETURN AFTER 48 MONTHS††

2012 RONDO

7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

Rondo EX-V6 shown

HWY: 7.5L/100KM
CITY: 10.6L/100KM

0% FINANCING APR FOR UP TO 60 MONTHS**

PLUS

NOW GET UP TO **$1,000** IN LOAN SAVINGS‡

INTRODUCING THE NEW 2012 SORENTO

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PLUS

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7 PASSENGER SEATING AVAILABLE

Sorento SX shown

HWY: 6.2L/100KM
CITY: 9.5L/100KM

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Kia's new Customer Friendly Pricing includes delivery and destination fees and all mandatory government levies. Prices do not include dealer administration fees ($399 to $699), licensing, PPSA or applicable taxes.

madd Saving Lives, Supporting Victims

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$500 Grad Rebate

Offer(s) available on all new 2011 and 2012 models through participating dealers to qualified customers who take delivery by January 3, 2012. Dealers may sell for less. Some conditions apply. Retailer order/trade may be necessary. Offers are subject to change and may be extended without notice. See dealer for complete details. Vehicle images shown may include optional accessories and upgrades. All offers exclude licensing, registration, insurance, PPSA, applicable taxes and variable dealer administration fees (up to $699). **0% purchase financing is available on all 2011 and 2012 Kia models on approved credit (OAC). Terms vary by model and trim; see dealer for details. Financing example based on 2012 Kia Sorento (SR75BC) with a selling price of $28,379, financed at 0% APR for 60 months. Monthly payments equal $472.98 with a down payment/equivalent trade of $0. Cost of borrowing is $0 for a total obligation of $28,379. Delivery and destination fees ($1,650), other fees ($34), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable) are included. Licence, insurance, applicable taxes, variable dealer administration fees are extra. Financing example includes a $1,250 loan credit (includes $500 loan credit and $750 loyalty bonus¥). Retailer may sell for less. See dealer for full details. ◆"Don't Pay Until Spring" on select models (120-day payment deferral) applies to purchase financing offers on select 2011 and 2012 models on approved credit (OAC) (Sportage/Sorento/Sedona/Borrego excluded). No interest will accrue during the first 90 days of the finance contract. After this period, interest starts to accrue and the purchaser will repay the principal interest monthly over the term of the contract. ★"Every eligible contestant automatically wins a prize of $500 up to $10,000 towards the purchase or lease of any new 2011 or 2012 Kia vehicle, plus one lucky winner will be randomly selected to win $25,000 at the conclusion of the contest. Contest open to Canadian residents with a valid driver's licence, who have reached the age of majority in the province of their residence. Odds of winning vary per prize. Potential prize recipients must correctly answer a skill-testing question. Other restrictions apply, please see your participating Kia dealer for complete contest rules. ††FlexChoice Financing for 36-, 48- and 60-month terms on approved credit through TD Financing Services is available at participating dealerships to qualified retail customers on select new 2011 and 2012 Kia vehicles. Taxes on the full negotiated purchase price are payable at the beginning of the contract term, resulting in higher payments than payments taxed on a periodic basis, and are not reflected in advertised payments. The following terms apply to TD Financing Services contracts. Vehicles are financed over a term of up to 96 months and the pre-determined residual balance payable at the end of the contract. At contract's end, customers have the choice of: (i) returning their vehicle through a Kia dealership with no further obligations (except payment of a $399 return fee and excess wear and tear, mileage and similar charges if exceeding 24,000 km per year allowance); (ii) financing the remaining balance for the rest of the amortization period at then-current standard rates; or (iii) paying the residual balance indicated on the bill of sale in full. Some conditions apply, FlexChoice Financing offered by TD in Quebec is subject to different terms and conditions. All advertised FlexChoice Financing offers are TD offers. Delivery and destination fees (up to $1,650), other fees ($34), OMVIC fee, Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable) are included. Taxes, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage, wear and tear charges, any retailer administration fees and other applicable fees and charges are not included. FlexChoice Financing is provided on approved credit through TD Financing Services. Your Option Date is set out on your TD Financing Services Payment Advantage Loan Certificate (the "Certificate"), which contains the terms and conditions governing your Return Value Option. If you exercise your Return Value Option, a return fee of $399 must be paid by you (not applicable in the province of Quebec) and you will be responsible for excess kilometre charges, excess wear and tear, and any other amounts as specified in your Certificate. The remaining loan balance will be subject to then-applicable TD Financing Services rates and fees. Retailers may sell for less. See participating retailers for complete details. Representative example based on 2012 Forte Sedan base model (F0540C) / 2012 Soul (S05S6C) with a purchase price of $17,484/$18,279 financed at 3.39%/1.49% APR over 60/48 months with $0 down, bi-weekly payments of $99/$115 for a cost of borrowing of $1,811/$700 and a total obligation of $17,795/$17,979. Includes delivery and destination fees of $1,455/$1,650, other fees, OMVIC fee ($34), Environmental Fee and A/C tax (where applicable). 2012 Forte (F0540C) includes $500 dealer contribution, $500 FlexChoice credit and $500 WINterfest Everybody Wins credit. Taxes, PPSA, licence, insurance, registration, excess mileage, wear and tear charges, any administration or other applicable fees or charges are not included. Dealer may sell for less. See dealer for details. ‡Loan credit (cash savings) for 2012 Kia Sorento LX AT (SR75BC) / 2012 Rondo (RN75C) is $1,250 (includes $500 loan credit and $750 loyalty bonus¥) $1,000 and is available on purchase financing only on approved credit (OAC). Loan credit varies by model and trim. ¥Loyalty Bonus offer available on 2012 Kia Sorento at a value of $750 for any current Kia owners towards the purchase or lease of a new 2012MY Sorento. Loyalty Bonus offer applicable to cash purchase, lease and purchase financing only before January 3, 2012. Offer is transferrable within same household only (must provide proof of address). Limit of one bonus per customer or household. Certain restrictions apply. See dealer for details. ^Highway/city fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. Refer to the Government of Canada publication *EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide*. Some conditions apply to the $500 Grad Rebate Program and $750 Kia Mobility Program. See dealer for details. Information in this advertisement is believed to be accurate at the time of print. For more information on our 5-year warranty coverage, visit kia.ca or call us at 1-877-542-2886. Kia Canada is the official automotive sponsor of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD Canada). KIA and FlexChoice are trademarks of Kia Motors Corporation.